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PART XIX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

November 1877.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XIX.

No. 1.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 65. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, October* 15, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch addressed by me this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador, reporting that on a dilatory investigation taking place no Abazians were discovered willing to return to Russia, and that the whole of them have been removed from Trebizond.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Trebizond, October* 15, 1877.

I HAVE had the honour to mention in my former reports that, in consequence of a disagreement between Ibrahim Pasha and M. Riva, the Italian Consul, the latter could not communicate through his dragoman with the local authorities.

As this situation did not allow of certain pressing measures, especially that of the repatriation of some Caucasian emigrants, to be carried out (M. Riva acting on behalf of Russian interests), the Italian Minister at Constantinople sent here, about three weeks ago, M. Canoja, the third dragoman of the Legation, on special service.

No Vizirial letter having been furnished him, Ibrahim Pasha refused at first to recognize him, but when this difficulty was overcome he was allowed to present the list drawn up at the Italian Consulate of the Caucassian emigrants willing to return to their country.

A limited number only of the individuals inscribed could be identified, but all, without exception, denied to have presented themselves for the purpose of being sent back to Russia.

It would seem that a few of the Abazian Chiefs who had appeared before the Consul had done so with a view to find out if any promises were held out to induce their countrymen to return to the Caucasus.

As small sums of money were given by order of the German Embassy, several among the Abazians said that they had merely applied for relief. Others denied emphatically to have presented themselves, and among these the widow of Lieutenant-Colonel Prince Marciania, who was in the receipt of a pension of several hundred roubles, as proved by the documents in her possession, which she had exhibited to the Italian Consul.

This gentleman, who gave me the foregoing details, pointed out to me that when the

verification of the list drawn up by him took place, more than two-thirds of the emigrants had already left for other parts of Turkey, and that no doubt those really willing to return to Russia had been embarked the first; that the others must have been induced by promises or intimidation from their Chiefs to change their mind, and that the Abazains, in general, were people on whose character little reliance could be placed.

As the thirteen Christian emigrants with whom I spoke personally were most positive in their declaration, I share, so far as they are concerned, the opinion of the Italian Consul, but I cannot help thinking that in the number of those who presented themselves at the Italian Consulate, several were attracted by the slight pecuniary assistance issued to them at the time, and by the hope, perhaps, of further advantages at a later period.

However it may be, with the exception of about fifty Abazians who are laid up with small-pox, no other emigrants are now at Trebizond. The last have been shipped, two days ago, as most of the former, for Heraclea.

All precautions are taken to prevent the spreading out among the population of Trebizond of this contagious disease, which seems to be endemic to the Abazians, but which luckily broke out at a moment when only very few of them remained in this town.

M. Canoja, the dragoman of the Italian Legation, told me that the attitude of the Abazian Chiefs, whom he met several times at the sittings of the Emigration Committee, was so threatening that he did not consider it safe for him to assist at the meeting without a revolver in his pocket for self-defence.

He further expressed the conviction that had an attempt been made to send back to Russia Abazians (even no more than twenty, he said), an insurrection would have taken place.

If M. Canoja is not mistaken in his appreciation of what he has witnessed at the sittings of the Committee, Ibrahim Pasha is not, perhaps, after all, to be blamed for not having carried out the orders of his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 2.

Acting Consul Brock to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 22. Consular.)
My Lord, *Trieste, October* 27, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on Thursday evening last (25th instant), accompanied by the Consular Chaplain, I visited 326 Jewish refugees from Kyzanlik, who arrived here the same morning *en route* for Constantinople.

We were conducted through the Jewish hospital, where food and accommodation had been provided for the refugees by MM. Giacomo Jacchia and David Pincherle, two of the elders of the Jewish community of this city, who most kindly afforded me every facility for obtaining the information I desired. These refugees form the bulk of the Jewish community of Kyzanlik, numbering at the time of the Russian invasion 500 souls; of these upwards of 100 are missing, nothing being known of them.

The refugees consist of 96 men, 110 women, of whom 26 are widows, and 120 children, 45 being orphans. M. Aaron Kanetti, the principal man among them—a banker and merchant of Kyzanlik—in answer to questions put to him, informed me that the day following the entrance of the Russians in Kyzanlik last July, parties of Bulgarians and Cossacks visited the houses of the Jewish merchants, demanding money; that, without giving time for their demands to be complied with, they assaulted and murdered several members of the community.

An application was then made to the Russian military authorities for protection, the only reply to which was an assurance that they need not be afraid, that they were quite safe. The outrages, however, still continued, till their property having been all seized or destroyed, and their lives being in jeopardy, they determined on leaving their homes and endeavouring to make their way to Bucharest.

After fifty-four days of terrible suffering and privation, frequently for long intervals without food or water, they arrived at this latter place, covered with filth and vermin, their clothes in rags, and their shoes worn off their feet, and scarcely able to stand, in fact, more dead than alive, twenty-six of their number having died on the way. They state that during the journey one married woman and four girls were outraged by Bulgarians and Cossacks—one poor girl by no less than twenty-five different men. These women, who

are here, were also diseased by their brutal assailants, and three are said to be with child.

At Bucharest they were hospitably received, and provided with food and clothing by their coreligionists; and, on the 17th instant, after a rest of thirty days, they started on their journey here, accompanied by M. V. Levi, President of the Jewish community at Bucharest, and by two other gentlemen, members of the Alliance Israélite.

These Jews are of Spanish descent, their ancestors having settled in Roumelia 300 years ago. They speak a Spanish dialect, mixed with Italian and some Hebrew. They state that they were all in comfortable circumstances, and had always lived on the best of terms with their Turkish neighbours.

In answer to a question as to whether the Russian regular soldiers had taken part in the outrages upon them, they replied that they had "done nothing either good or bad, for or against them." They say that, to their knowledge, twenty of their people were murdered by the united Bulgarians and Cossacks, M. Kanetti's father, mother, and son being amongst the victims. They estimate their loss at 100,000 Turkish pounds.

They proceed to-morrow morning, by special Austrian Lloyds' steamer, for Constantinople, their expenses being defrayed by the Alliance Israélite. Upwards of 4,000 florins (400*l.*) in money, food, and clothing, have been contributed for them at Trieste.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BROCK.

No. 3.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 72. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, October* 27, 1877.

I HAVE the honour, with reference to my despatches Nos. 64, 66, and 69, Political, to inclose copy of a despatch to me from Mr. Vice-Consul Wagstaff, giving details as to the late shipments of wheat at Nicolaieff, and grounds for the belief that it is *bond fide* destined for Marseilles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Vice-Consul Wagstaff to Consul-General Stanley.

Sir, *Nicolaieff, October* 22, 1877.

ON the 9th instant I sent you the following telegram *en clair*:—

"*British Consul-General, Odessa.*

"The five Greek vessels, carrying about 15,000 tchetwerts, have been chartered by Semeriotti, agent for Zarifi, Constantinople bankers, to load wheat immediately for Marseilles. Shipper gives letter freeing captains from responsibility in case of capture.
(Signed) "WAGSTAFF."

I have now the honour to report, for your information, that the first two ships named in the annexed list, applied to me, in my capacity as protector of Turkish interests at Nicolaieff, for bills of health on the 20th instant, which I duly issued, and to-day I have delivered the same document to the other three vessels.

The captains of these ships have assured me that they have made *bond fide* charter-parties with Mr. Panteleion Semeriotti, agent of M. Zarifi, of Constantinople, to convey their cargoes of wheat to the Mediterranean, and from other sources I hear it reported that two of the cargoes are already sold at Marseilles.

The bills of lading are made out in the usual form—Semeriotti, shipper, and consigned "to order."

A legal document was drawn up by the charterer at the Greek Vice-Consulate, and a copy given to each captain, guaranteeing him against all risks and responsibility in case of capture by the Turks.

As it is known that M. Zarifi is a private banker of the Sultan, it is presumed his influence has secured the free passage of these vessels through Turkish waters.

It is, however, rumoured here that some of the wheat is destined for Turkey, but I am assured by others to the contrary, that it is for the Mediterranean market, and possibly one or two vessels will proceed to England.

The loading of these vessels has naturally caused much excitement amongst commercial classes, who are very anxious to ship the large quantities of grain they have bought, and they now hope, after this glaring infringement of the blockade, that England will demand from Turkey the free passage of her ships, and not permit a few favoured merchants and foreign vessels only to profit by the present high prices of wheat in Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. GEO. WAGSTAFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

LIST of Greek Vessels loaded by Mr. P. Semeriotti, at Nicolaieff.

Date of Clearance.	Name of Vessel.	Name of Master.	Cargo.	Freight.
1877				Per charge.
Oct. 20	Nea Sona, brig	Athanasio Mosco	2,800 tchetwerts wheat .	6½ fr.
20	Olga, brig	Gabriele Manzovino	3,200 ,, .	Ditto.
22	Aghios Nicholas, brig	Constantine Tchalagliere ..	3,650 ,, .	7l. 5. U. K., and ditto.
22	Alexandros, brig	Chinoro Tratoris	2,200 ,, .	6½ fr.
22	Aghios Charalambos, brig ..	Joannes Dambassis	2,000 ,, .	Ditto.

(Signed) WM. GEO. WAGSTAFF, *Vice-Consul.*

No. 4.

M. Gennadius to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 1.)

My Lord, *Greek Legation, October 29, 1877.*

WHEN I had the honour to communicate to Mr. Lister M. Tricoupi's note of the 10th/22nd September, I offered, in conformity with the concluding instructions of that document, to produce a long succession of incontrovertible facts demonstrative of the actual state of the provinces next the Hellenic frontier.

Mr. Lister having desired me to make that statement in writing, I have compiled, from the many and voluminous reports received from His Majesty's Consuls, a *resumé* of recent events in those provinces, endeavouring to compress the mass of evidence and to mitigate, as far as possible, the repulsiveness of the incidents, without detracting from the fidelity of the recital.

I have now the honour to submit to your Lordship the result of this painful inquiry, and I believe it will be found to fall considerably short of a full and adequate description of the unprovoked martyrdom which continues to be mercilessly inflicted upon the Greek people of Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Memorandum.

THE acts of massacre, pillage, and rapine now raging throughout Thessaly are due to the irregular Mussulman levies—the Gheghs from the north and the Zeibeks from the south—poured into that unhappy province with the avowed mission of striking terror into the Christian population and of exhausting their resources, so as to render them prostrate and helpless.

About three months ago, some of the more fanatic Mussulmans of Thessaly sent a deputation to Constantinople demanding that measures should be taken to strengthen

their hands in view of events in the neighbouring parts of the Empire, and towards the end of August the authorities at Larissa communicated to the Faithful a telegram from Bekir Bey and Bendrendi Bey announcing their return with the desired auxiliaries.

In fact, a few days later, a contingent of 1,200 Zeibeks was conveyed in a Turkish transport from Smyrna to Volos. They were under the orders of a Bey from Asia Minor, formerly President of the Court of Justice at Scio, but who had now undertaken to recruit these irregulars, choosing from amongst them his officers, and engaging to supply them with nought but what they might levy on the Giaours. A large proportion, about a sixth, of these men were criminals of the worse class, released from prison on the express condition of enlisting, so as to assist, they themselves boasted, in carrying fire and sword into Greece. Indeed, their officers promised them rich booty on the frontier being crossed. They were armed with long pistols, yataghans, and knives, but breech-loaders were to be distributed to them on reaching Larissa.

Landing at Volos, they first spread into and plundered the vineyards, and, on their return to town later in the day, rushed through the Christian quarter with war-cries and yataghans drawn; yet they molested no one until the evening, when they entered indiscriminately every house on the pretext of obtaining beasts of burthen for their departure. Besides horses and mules, however, a large quantity of furniture and clothing was collected. The Zeibeks coming from Asia Minor barefooted, shoes were also in request; accordingly, many a passer-by was lifted off his feet by two men, while a third released him of his shoes. The booty was next gathered in the barrack-yard, and owners were invited to redeem their property by paying its value, "according to custom in Turkey," adds the report. The Zeibeks had thus obtained already a large sum of money, when the Consular Agent for Italy, M. Borrell, expostulated with the Kaïmakam, and some of the unredeemed property was restituted. At nightfall they left, to the great relief of the inhabitants, who had received timely warning that the more fanatic portion of the Mussulmans sought to persuade the Zeibeks to set fire to the Christian quarter.

At the village of Gherli, a short distance from Volos, a body of regular troops awaited to escort them to Larissa, but failed to protect the hapless villagers, who were despoiled of all they possessed, beaten, and exposed to the most revolting indignities. It is believed that few women here or elsewhere escaped this savage onslaught. In such cases, however, it is impossible to ascertain the full extent of suffering, for the women, knowing they can hope for no redress, refrain from owning to a shame which would expose them to a life-long reproach.

Next day they proceeded through the district of Armyros, gathering what they declared to be "unpaid taxes." Such sums as the poorer inhabitants failed to produce were extorted from the richer ones, in addition to the quota fixed upon them. They were also beaten, in order to avow they meditated a rising, and to point out future leaders. Meanwhile the regular troops looked on calmly and approvingly, and distributed breech-loaders to the Tatars and Circassians settled in this neighbourhood last year.

Thus they proceeded, scouring the country, spreading terror and rapine all round, and gradually breaking up into small bands of marauders, under whose feet, it is added, the very grass withered. On their approach to Larissa the army and the Mussulman population turned out to meet them, and their entry was attended by wild war-cries of defiance, brandishing of yataghans, and firing of pistols. What followed on their meeting here the Gheghs will be stated further on, it being here necessary to chronicle the progress of these latter on their descent from the north.

The Gheghs, reputed to be a mixture of Albanian, Serb, and Bulgar renegades, who about a century and a-half ago embraced the Islam religion, are reckoned as the most cruel and barbarous of the tribes inhabiting Northern Albania. Living in a mountainous country, and considering indolence the distinctive privilege of their sect, they pursue neither trade nor agriculture, but exist by cattle-lifting and rapine. Their larcenous propensities are proverbial, and the brigand bands, so long the scourge of the Greco-Turkish frontiers, are mainly recruited by Gheghs. Their other leisure is taken up by intestine feuds, which are traditional amongst them; but some, when driven by extreme poverty and want, descend into the plains of Thessaly and Macedonia and seek employment during the summer months as harvest gatherers. This, coupled with their roaming habits, gives them a thorough knowledge of the country, and renders them formidable as marauders.

This fierce, hungry, and lawless rabble has now been called upon to exercise by authority that mode of existence which, as outlaws, they had formerly carried on in a less systematic manner, and a silent resentment of the comparative prosperity of their more industrious neighbours and former employers, lends an additional impetus to their rapacity.

Their armament, which it is promised them will be also supplemented by breech-loaders, is similar to that of the Zeibecks; but many carry bunches of keys and crow-bars, the implements of their calling of predilection. Most of them started bare-footed and half-naked, but had liberty to provide for their wants at discretion, the Government allowing them only bread. They are to receive no pay, but they have stipulated with the Sublime Porte to be allowed "pljatchka," free booty, the privilege enjoyed, *ab antiquo*, by Ghegh mercenaries.

The chief recruiting agent and their principal leader is Salih Bey, formerly Kaïmakam of Castoria. He had enlisted in all 1,400 men, of whom 250 are horse from Bioroni, of Castoria. He had enlisted in all 1,400 men, of whom 250 are horse from Bioroni, of Castoria. The rest are on foot, 400 from Mali and 750 from the Sandjak of Drakova, and Ipek; the rest are on foot, 400 from Mali and 750 from the Sandjak of Drakova, and Ipek; the rest are on foot, 400 from Mali and 750 from the Sandjak of Dibbi (or Debra). Another 1000 of mixed horse and foot, having no recognized chief, but under the guidance of about ten Binbashis followed, mostly of their own accord, and in the expectation of plunder. As, however, they were all told that the Giaours had risen and were to be put down, they loudly expressed their surprise and their unfeigned satisfaction at finding the country to the south perfectly quiet, and the people unprepared to offer any resistance to their exactions.

Thus constituted, they proceeded in a southerly direction, viâ Prespa, through the Sandjaks of Castoria and Anuselitza. Although their mission was intended to commence only after crossing the Vistritza, the country to the north did not escape. Indeed the excesses committed at the very outset were such that the authorities at Monastir considered for some time the advisability of calling upon Salih Bey to give explanations, but such a course was deemed inexpedient, and the country about Lake Ochrida was the first to feel the effects of the descent of the Gheghs. The townships of Lipsavopoliz, Galeska, Reica, and twelve other villages, were more or less sacked; the inhabitants of some preferring the lesser hardship of abandoning their homes altogether and betaking themselves to the woods. Some of Salih Bey's following, found themselves already sufficiently enriched so as to retire upon their spoils and return to Debra. Others branched off into independent parties of twenties and thirties, soon degenerating into actual brigand bands. But the main body proceeded steadily southward, and on $\frac{\text{August}}{\text{September}}\ \frac{25}{5}$ entered Kozané (or Kojani).

A detailed account of the horrors perpetrated in each case would fill volumes; but as a uniform system guided the invasion of every town or village, a brief sketch of the *modus operandi* followed with but few variations may save iteration.

Each house is appropriated by a number of Gheghs, who, on entering, order a sumptuous meal, generally six dishes, irrespective of the means of the hapless villager. If he fail to provide the menu complete, he is beaten, and an indemnity is exacted for the deficiency. By a time-honoured custom of Ghegh mercenaries, the host is also required to depose by the side of each cover the "diss-parassi," or teeth money, expected for the trouble and honour of eating and drinking at an infidel house; this varies, according to circumstances, from one medjidieh to five liras, else the Ghegh will not touch his food, and the tortures of his presence are protracted. The next step is to search the house lest arms be concealed, and in this process the very floor of the rooms is torn up. This search, however, invariably results in the discovery of clothing, money, and small jewels, which find favour in the eyes of the Gheghs, and are consequently declared to be unbecoming in the possession of mere Giaours. If the owner be ill-advised enough to expostulate, he is soundly beaten, and fresh exactions follow. It is useless to apply for redress, for on such emergencies the Governor is not visible; he is ill or angry, and not to be spoken to. The Khadi (Judge) is amused by what he sees going on, but when appealed to refuses to believe that the "Imperial Army" is capable of any act of injustice, and must surely be calumniated. At last the Gheghs, being convinced that the place can yield nothing more, signify their intention to leave. The indispensible condition, however, is that they should be furnished with some prodigious number of beasts of burthen. If this number does not exist in the place, a price is fixed and exacted for each horse or mule not forthcoming. The rest are "borrowed," but as most are sent on to Gheghuria with the booty they never return. Some articles, such as books, church furniture, &c., proving superfluous or useless, an auction is held previous to departure, and the rayah is offered a chance of redeeming his property. Finally, a general tax is levied "for the expenses of the troops of the Padishah." As most of the Gheghs know the country, and are acquainted with the means of their former employers, they regulate their exactions accordingly. The richest inhabitants are, as a rule, carried off as "dangerous"; they cease, however, to prove such so soon as they offer to buy themselves off. Lastly, a written acknowledgement is obtained setting forth that all they requisitioned has been paid for in full, and that no claim whatever is to be made on the Imperial Government. To crown all, by a stroke of cruel mockery, as the wretched villagers are ready to concede almost anything in order to get rid of their ravenous guests, they are required to sign a petition expressive of their

gratitude for the exemplary conduct of the Padishah's warriors during their sojourn in their midst. Such documents can serve but one purpose, for the Gheghs can apprehend no punishment for so effectual an execution of their mission. They are kept ready to be produced if required as evidence to foreign agents of the utter flimsiness of the complaints of the Christians.

This terrible programme was faithfully carried out at Kojani; and thence crossing the River Alkakmon (Vistritz) they commenced a systematic pillage, having now entered a purely Greek and, as they declared, the enemy's country. After a sojourn of four days the 600 Gheghs who entered Kojani left on the $\frac{13}{25}$th September, demanding 150 horses and obtaining an indemnity of 3 silver medjidiehs (about 12*s.*) for each defaulting horse, which was to be used, as they stated, only as far as Servia—a distance of four hours. They had hardly left, however, when the contingent from Mati entered Kojani, remaining there until Saturday, the $\frac{15}{27}$th. The behaviour of the Matiotes was less oppressive here, partly because there was little left to plunder, and partly owing to their Chiefs, Riza Bey and Djemal Bey, who, taking pity upon the exhausted villagers, exhorted their men to forbear.

Thence they proceeded in two columns, the one towards Servia (Selvidshi), and the other in the direction of Velvendos, to the east. Servia contains 400 Mussulmans and 100 Christian houses. Nevertheless, the Christians alone, although in extreme poverty, were ordered to lodge all the Gheghs who arrived. They did so, offering them the best food and accommodation at their disposal, attending upon them and their horses, and endeavouring to appease their ferocity. But all to no purpose. The Gheghs were determined to treat the Seristes as enemies, and the more fanatic of the Mussulman inhabitants soon set up a cry that the Church of St. Nicholas contained arms. No arms were found, and none existed; but the church was pillaged all the same, the candlesticks, calix, robes, gospel, &c., being hawked about in the market-place, and, finally, the old and venerable Priest Demetrius, who sat at the Medjliss as representative of the Bishop, was forced to wash the feet of the savages billetted upon him. In a neighbouring cottage, consisting of but one room, the only child of a most worthy Christian was lying dead, the parents wailing their recent loss. The Gheghs entered this, the only roof that had not been offered them, and demanded that "the dirt should be thrown out." By dint of supplications, and on payment of 300 piastres as indemnity for the unoccupied house, they desisted. They remained at Servia six days, devouring everything they could lay hands upon, and at last swept the place clean of money, copper and metal ware, carpets, clothing, and all valuables. These proceedings were witnessed by a Kaïmakam and a company of Mustaphiz without so much as a word of remonstrance. The wretched villagers, however, found some protection in their neighbour the venerable Reshid Bey, his son Ibraïm Bey, and his son-in-law Mustapha Bey, a well-to-do and liberal family, as well as in Sherif Effendi, who had for many years acted as Secretary to Ch. Tographos, the well-known Greek banker at Constantinople. These good men interceded and saved some of the poorer people; but their coreligionists disavow them, and declare that henceforth they also are numbered amongst the Giaours.

At Velvendof similar excesses were committed by another band. George Hadji-Antoniades, the wealthiest inhabitant, who had rendered great services to the Porte, and who, for his proved fidelity, had sat for twenty years as Councillor or Aza at the Mixed Court, was completely ruined.

Thence they repaired a little to the north and entered Hataphygion, a purely Christian town of 400 houses. Fifty men appeared at first bearing an order from the authorities to the effect that they were "Imperial troops" on their way to the Greek frontier, and should be cared for. The Primates of the borough went out to meet them, and received them in their houses with every mark of good-will and hospitality. Later in the evening, however, 250 more rushed into the town demanding quarters. They were offered food and were requested to manage and bivouac, the night being fine, as every family had now turned in. This was the signal for an indiscriminate assault on the Christians, those who had been hospitably lodged replying to the shouts of their comrades by firing from inside the houses. What followed cannot be described. Every house was pillaged, and the church of Prodromos was completely gutted. Next day, on entering the house of a certain Daniel,—a man of the worst antecedents, and distrusted by the other Christians, for he acted as spy to the authorities,—they discovered one of their countrymen, a Mussulman Albanian, Fezo by name, who had for some time past resumed the natural Ghegh vocation of a brigand. This was at once declared to constitute a proof positive implicating the whole population. The sacking having therefore been completed, seventy-two mules were laden with chattels and sent off to Debra; while Fezo was instructed, on the promise of a free pardon, to declare against the notables of Kataphygion, who were sent on with him to Larissa for trial. One of them, Sergios Dalanis, was killed on the spot.

Servia offering no attraction after the first raid, the marauders were directed by the Mussulman Serviotes to Vlocholivadon,—a town of 500 Christian houses, and situated a little to the south-east,—as to a rich field for operations. The instructions furnished them were so minute, that the Gheghs demanded to be shown to the houses of the principal inhabitants by name. Their ferocity was increased by the expectation of rich booty, and, driving away the inmates with their yataghans, they broke open cupboards and tore up the floors in the hope of hidden treasure. The booty was packed on fifty horses and sent to Debra. A variation, however, was practised here. Ten of the Primates were laden with furniture, &c., on the pretext that there were not enough beasts of burthen. The wretched men had to make a further payment of 40 liras before obtaining their release. The Yusbashi of the Mustaphiz stationed here remained an impurturbable spectator of the proceedings until most of the inhabitants had fled to the woods. He then proceeded to secure his share of the spoil, which he forwarded to his native village of Saridjol, on the other side of the river.

From Vlacholivadon they descended toward Elassona in bands, roaming about the country, pillaging and imposing taxes at will on such misguided villagers as had not already taken to the mountains. Elassona, being principally inhabited by Mussulmans, did not much attract the Gheghs, who settled on the adjacent monastery of Olympiotissa and some smaller villages. The inhabitants of Tsaritzané (Charichená), half an hour distant from Elassona, being warned by what happened elsewhere, sent a deputation in advance of the Gheghs, and actually concluded a convention with them, whereby, on consideration of a lump sum paid down, they promised not to enter the place. The monastery, however, was pillaged, the monks beaten mercilessly, and the Metropolitan church escaped only on payment of a heavy fine by the Bishop of Elassona. Many of the villagers were again used as beasts of burden, two of them being actually led away by a bridle, and with a bit in their mouths, as a practical illustration of their actual status under Gheghrule. It is not surprising to learn that one of the hapless victims went mad under the treatment.

The upper surface having thus been swept clean of all substance, some of the fresher graves were dug open, the dead exhumed, divested of their clothing—for even those were needed by the Imperial troops—and the bodies cast to the dogs.

Crowned with the glory of such deeds, the fame of which had preceded them, the Gheghs made their entry into Larissa, and at once signalled their objective point. A body of 200, under the command of an officer of the regular army, but employed in the police, passed the Greek Consulate on September $\frac{7}{20}$, and shouting oaths and insults to the inmates, endeavoured to force an entrance. They were with difficulty restrained by the cavass, but they knocked at the gate with the butt-ends of their guns and insulted the flag. M. Salamides protested against this unprovoked assault; but, to his surprise, he received on the following day an official communication whereby the Governor flatly denied any such occurrence having taken place. The denial, it was said, was supported by the officer of police—the accused—and the cavass of the British Consulate. Mr. Sutor, the only other European Representative there, on being appealed to, sent to M. Salamides the written deposition of his cavass, who, on the contrary, fully confirmed the act complained of, although he, being a Mussulman, and of the most fanatic type, had endeavoured, when called upon by the local authorities, to mitigate some and pass over in silence other of the occurrences, of which he had witnessed only the close. This mortifying deposition of facts, which had re-echoed in the whole town, being communicated to the Governor, he sent for the Consular dragoman of Greece, requesting him to compromise the matter by the police officer apologizing to M. Salamides, who, however, was to understand that this step had no official character attached to it. The offer was naturally declined, and orders have since been given to the Vali at Joannina to investigate a matter respecting which only the authorities entertain doubts.

The Gheghs in the meantime continued their depredations, and two Italian subjects, who had suffered at their hands, receiving no redress, M. Borrell, the Italian Agent at Volo, was ordered to repair to Larissa and demand satisfaction. The authorities at first denied, "according to established usage," says the report, the very grounds of the complaint. Subsequently, however, they promised to adopt stringent measures, and having failed, as they said, to discover the culprit, gave a written apology to M. Borrell.

At last the Governor aroused himself from his self-imposed lethargy; but this was due to the fact that the Gheghs had gradually extended their operations to some Mussulmen, one of whom was wounded. They were consequently informed that spoliation and violence was allowed indeed, but only when Ghiours were concerned; the Faithful were to be respected. The hint was taken, and Larissa was made the central "entrepôt" of the plunder from the country around, its market-place presenting the aspect of a continuous

auction, church and house furniture figuring very prominently at the sales. Trade having thus received a healthy impetus, the Jews were prevailed upon to re-open their shops, the Governor now promising cash payments. Plundering, however, went on unchecked, and with this difference, that complainants were warned that sterner treatment would follow further appeals, and, in fact, several Jews were beaten on demanding payment for their goods.

On Saturday, September $\frac{11}{24}$, the Zeibeks who landed at Volos arrived at Larissa, and at once entered into a brisk competition with the Gheghs in the way of plunder and violence. The shops were again shut on their approach, therefore twenty men were laid hold of in the market-place and beaten, eight, including the parish Priest and the Archdeacon, receiving yataghan-wounds. A Greek subject was, without the slightest provocation, stripped naked in the street, and pricked with the points of yataghans, and the Secretary and Dragoman of the Greek Consulate were again publicly insulted. On the latter making representations, the Governor replied "that nothing could be done." Consequently Greek subjects are all the more eagerly sought after, the Mussulmen pointing them out to the Gheghs as "Younan Ghiour"—Greek Ghiours.

The quarrelsome tendencies of the Gheghs, however, soon reasserted themselves, and numerous disputes arose between the Chiefs. Therefore, in order to avert the armed encounters which seemed impending amongst them and the Zeibegs over the plunder, numerous bands were again sent off on fresh expeditions.

They were not long gone when the most heartrending reports of their doings arrived from the surrounding country, and more especially from the towns of Turnavo and Cunbelhia. The last named is famous in modern Greek history for the unparalled industry and thriftiness of its inhabitants, and their marvellous system of co-operation. The sad tidings were soon confirmed by the arrival at Larissa of three Ambelakiotes, who, accompanied by the British Vice-Consul and M. Borrell, laid their sad tale before the Governor. His Excellency had no knowledge of the event; in fact, he was quite surprised. The Mudir, however, who had escorted the Gheghs to Ambelakia on September $\frac{14}{27}$th, informed the authorities of their doings from the very first, the pillage having lasted for three days. During all this time no steps whatever were taken. But on the representations of the British Vice-Consul, the Governor now decided to send 50 horsemen to catch 600 armed brigands, who had finished their work of ruin. This mode of dealing is too grotesque to deceive anyone, and only confirms a fact of which no one doubts in Thessaly, namely, that the authorities secretly encourage and tacitly aid the Gheghs in carrying out a well-laid plan, conceived with a well-defined purpose.

What was the fate of Ambelakia nothing can describe better than the piteous appeal of its Primates to the Governor of Larissa, and the unadorned recital of the facts by one of the principal inhabitants in a letter to a friend at Larissa. Translations of both these documents are annexed.

Ambelakia having been completely ruined, its 600 destroyers, accompanied and cheered on by the fanatic Mussulman villagers, proceeded to the Christian town of Rnezmé, on Mount Olympus, and after beating, dishonouring, and despoiling the inhabitants of all they possessed, broke up into smaller bands and spread terror, ruin, and misery over the surrounding country. It is difficult, and probably useless, to give henceforth a connected and detailed account of what took place; because plunder, ravage, violence, and devastation became the order of the day, and the fair Plains of Thessaly were converted into a veritable Pandemonium.

The villages and towns round Mount Olympus were all devastated. Pyrgotos and Phtamon were given up to pillage for two days. The inhabitants of Leptocarya abandoned their homes on the approach of the Gheghs and fled to the mountains, many of the feeble and old dying of exposure and fatigue. Kommno was swept clean of everything as by a whirlwind. Klissoura was invaded by a band of thirty, who commenced firing and warning the inhabitants not to stir. They proceeded straightway to the house of Tsoula Simota, a wealthy merchant, broke the gates with hatchets and carried away everything of value. Fortunately the family, whom they intended to capture and ransom, escaped by a back-door. Another merchant, Pasiates by name, was relieved of a group of 2,300 Turkish pounds which the Gheghs were informed he had just received through the post-office, and other houses were sacked.

Turnavo, two hours distant from Larissa, was entered into and pillaged three successive times. The first band of 800 Gheghs was received hospitably and fed sumptuously for eight days. On leaving they carried away, as usual, all they pleased. A second expedition, starting from Larissa, surrounded the town, driving back the fugitives, and allowing no one to enter from without, while a picked body of these savages perpetrated every abomination and iniquity on the inhabitants.

At Vlatzá, 400 Gheghs made an irruption on August 27 September 8, while another body of 200, under Djafer Aga, swept over the place the day after. Greek subjects were here the objects of special attention, and were deprived of all they possessed, after indignities of every kind.

At Litochorion, they entered in the afternoon of September 29, demanding food and accommodation. The inhabitants received them hospitably, and set about preparing for their comfort. This was interpreted as a sign of abject fear, and forthwith the worst excesses were perpetrated. Men on their way to market were robbed of the money wherewith they intended to provide for their oppressors, and some were stripped of every particle of dress and left naked in the streets.

Aghia was entered on September 13, when a fair is held. The regulars sent to guard the fair assisted the Gheghs in their pillage.

At Katarina and Kardhitza, the very gardens and vineyards were laid waste. the damage done surpassing anything that could be inflicted by a plague of locusts. Here, again, men were waylaid and obliged to strip of their clothing, that the Gheghs might change the rags they had brought on them from Dibra.

At Bakratzi, a village three hours distant from Larissa, on the way to Pharsála, the houses were sacked, and clothing, furniture, and cattle, to the value of 40,000 piastres, was carried away. Mnimoula, Fazli, and Soupi shared the same fate.

At Paraprastainé, seven Gheghs entered the cottage of Matthaeos, and all in succession outraged his wife. Being warned, he left his plough and ran to her assistance, killing three, but himself falling in defence of his honour.

In these horrors, the native Mussulmans, considering the opportunity propitious, take a lively share. On the outskirts of Elassóna, a Binbashi of the gendarmerie, accompanied by two young Mussulmans, the sons of the principal Beys, and what are styled "Turkish gentlemen," waylaid the Deacon of the Bishop, and after inflicting upon him, in broad daylight, the most unspeakable indignities, beat him mercilessly, and leaving him almost dead by the road-side, entered the town with that calmness and imperturbable composure so much admired in their class.

On the evening of August 29, a detachment of regulars had an engagement with a brigand band at Tsaoúli (between Pharsala and Armyeó), losing a corporal and two men. On their return to Pharsala, full of rage at their repulse, they murdered in cold blood two peaceable charcoal makers and a shepherd, and sent their heads to Larissa as those of "insurgents" killed in action.

The Mussulmans of Nevrokopo and Razloki declare that they have drawn up lists of the Christian primates and men of influence whom they propose to slaughter first as soon as the Russians obtain a victory.

The impunity secured to all acts of violence intensifies the fanaticism of the Turks, and helps its spread as that of an epidemic. On the 20th September, placards were posted in different parts of Larissa threatening with death Husin Bey and Ghalip Effendi when the moment arrived for the holy work of Allah, the slaughter of the Christians. The complaint against the above named was that they recommended moderation and leniency towards the Christians. The threat being thus extended to Mussulmans, the authorities were again aroused to a momentary sense of vigour, and arrested the authors of the proclamation, namely, Zeïr Aga; Sherif Effendi; Delli-Bashi; Djemal Effendi, School Inspector; Housin Effendi, Secretary to the Court of First Instance; and Ahmed Effendi, a lawyer; in fact all Turkish gentlemen. This show of energy caused some surprise, but twenty-four hours later, and after a mock investigation, they were all released. It is true that bail was given, but people at Larissa know that the Governor was, from the first, cognizant of the doings of his own employés and friends, and having done just enough to serve as excuse, in case he was remonstrated with, he now intends to proceed no further, nor allow the Christians to enjoy a sense of security.

The Bishop and Primates of Elassona and Petra repaired to Larissa, praying that no more Gheghs be sent, but regulars, if need be, whom they would cheerfully welcome; but the Military Governor cursed and insulted the Bishop, and sent away the Primates with threats, warning them that if they ventured to complain, they would be sent before a military tribunal and tried as "men who intended to rebel." The unhappy delegates left Larissa, not having much to choose between the two systems of persecution.

The authorities had both timely warning and ample means at their disposal to prevent these horrors; but they steadily refused to impede the execution of a preconcerted plan. The most detailed evidence on this point comes from Salonica, the seat of the Vali, or Governor-General.

The inhabitants of Litochorion, seeing the danger approach, sent to Katarina, beseeching the authorities not to abandon them unprotected. The telegraph superintendent there at first refused, "by superior orders," to allow them to telegraph, but finally consented to accept an exhorbitant price for a message to the Metropolitan of Salonica, after submitting it to proper modifications. The Greek subjects at Litochorion and Katarina also telegraphed to their Consul at Salonica. The Mudir of Katarina also telegraphed to the Vali, who was soon after appealled to by the Metropolitan, both personally and in writing. When the Greek Dragoman demanded that the Greek subjects should be protected from the impending danger, the Vali assured him that he had already taken every precaution. A large force of regulars was stationed at Salonica, and the ironclad "Ezlalich," with another dispatch-boat, were in the harbour. Nothing was, therefore, easier than to send a small force across the bay, which, if honestly employed, would have sufficed to check every excess of the Gheghs, disposing, as it would have done, of the energetic assistance of the inhabitants. The Vali, however, in spite of profuse promises, did absolutely nothing, proving thus to demonstration the most culpable complicity of the Turkish authorities.

The *mot d'ordre* had been transmitted far and wide, and the Mudir of the most remote village knew, in fact, that his duty was to encourage, not to prevent, aggression and pillage. At Kojani the Kadi of the Sheri (Sacred Court) released, without so much as a formal decision, twelve of the worse criminals in the gaol, that they might strengthen the ranks of the Gheghs. This same holy man, who acted in the absence of the Kaïmakam, received a telegram from Servia on September 7th, requesting him to seize twelve loads of booty sent on by Gheghs; but he aided the work of the Faithful, and the booty went its way unmolested; indeed, the Kadi considered his lease of power an opportunity not to be lost. Sixty-five horses, which had been requisitioned for carrying army stores, he released on receiving as many medjidiehs, and thrust the work of transport on a party of Christian peasants who had arrived with salt, and were under contract to carry back grain.

This system of compounding by the officials, on the payment of bribes, for Government work, which consequently has to be requisitioned for a second time, goes on uninterruptedly. Between the exactions of Gheghs, Zeibeks, and other robbers, on the one hand, and the insatiable rapacity of the officials on the other, the unfortunate Christians have arrived at the last stage of destitution and despair. The only trade existing is the sale of plunder. The fairs and markets have been discontinued. All necessaries are wanting, and prices for mere food have risen to fabulous sums. No man can reckon on his property or the honour of his family, and the lives of all Christians are insecure from one hour to the other. Their burthens and the torments they undergo are beyond the endurance of human beings, and their life is not worth suffering for. The system now pursued in Thessaly of repressing a phantom rising is not that of wholesale massacre, such as might provoke the indignation of Europe, but a quieter and slower, yet more merciless and cruel, process of torture and gradual extermination. No wonder if ever the Rayahs make up their minds to sell their lives dearly.

Such is the true and only method by which the Christians of Turkey are periodically goaded into revolt, not from without, but from within.

(Translation.)

Dear Mr. ———, at Larissa, *Ampelakia, September* $\frac{1}{13}$, 1877.

IN this letter I am about to relate to you the great calamity that has befallen our town—a matter worthy of all pity. Last Sunday evening our Effendi, the Mudir, sent us orders to take twenty horses down to Komba, as the army of the Gheghs was to pass on to Katarina, and if the horses were not fetched, he would send the Gheghs up to us. At once, on Monday morning, we took down the horses. On Tuesday morning a messenger with two horsemen brought us word that the Ghegh Bimbashi, with forty men, would come and inspect our town. So we were ordered to prepare five or six houses and a dinner for them, that they might then depart. All was at once got ready, and we mustered 150 of our townspeople in their honour, and went out to welcome them. Instead of 40, they were 60, and 120 more were loitering in the vineyards and about the ditches. As soon as they arrived the Bimbashi demanded to inspect the school, and thither he went with a numerous escort, who dug up and overturned everything. Finding nothing hidden, he said to our people, "Your neighbours, the Islams, told me you have here seven rebels and two cannons and 1,000 muskets, and also a magazine in the school, but I see nothing." We replied that the same things were told us presents by our neighbours, and we said to them, "We will depute to you as hostages fifty of our best families, with women and children, and let your village come and search, and if you find ought wrong with us, then you may burn our town, and do with us and our families as you please."

We were thus speaking when another Bimbashi arrived with 250 more men. We had hardly welcomed them when more appeared. They all began firing and shouting, going and coming. Our people seeing this confusion took their wives and their children and fled, they knew not whither; they fled, the Gheghs pursuing them. No man can describe what followed. We all lost heart and strength. At last, when the market-place was full of them, some of us went to the Lieutenant of Gendarmerie, who was here for the collection of taxes, and we presented ourselves to one of the Bimbashis. He was very savage and angry that we had not gone out to meet him as we had done with the others, and had no quarters ready for his men. We replied that we had no warning save as to six houses for 40 men, yet, besides these, 100, under another Bimbashi, had come. Nevertheless, we were sorry for it, and begged him to pardon us. The Lieutenant added we would at once prepare lodgings; whereupon the Bimbashi asked him, "Who are you here?" The Lieutenant replied he was of the Gendarmerie and a collector of taxes. At once the Gheghs rushed upon him and upon us and beat us with their muskets, crying, "Lodgings, you infidels! fly, or we shall fall upon you." They had entered the houses, and while searching and pillaging everything from roof to basement, they ordered supper to be prepared.

After supper our good neighbours (the Mussulmans) from Machrichori, Pournazi, and Hadjibashi arrived, with a certain Soliman of Larissa, who had been here this year on a Government errand, and having taken counsel together, they went straight at the church with axes and began firing in every direction. Houses and shops were entered into and pillaged, the Gheghs loading the while their horses. The women and children who had fled to the hills hearing the noise, thought the men left in the village were being butchered, and they set up a heartrending cry. Two girls perished at the rocks. Women and girls were seized, and many men wounded. The damage done cannot be described. In one word, our poor town is no more. We hope some of our townspeople may yet return. How many are yet alive, and how many have succumbed to the rain and the cold, God only knows.

Yesterday the Lieutenant of Gendarmerie reported what had taken place to the Mudir-Effendi, and some of us intend going to Larissa to report, but people have not yet recovered from the shock. As for me, my case is a sad one, for at my sixtieth year I have survived a merciless beating, and was forced by them to demolish with an axe my own house.

P.S.—If you think it prudent, read this letter to Devletzi Pasha, our Effendi. Perhaps the Mudir-Effendi has not telegraphed to him the particulars.

Another letter reports that the whole town has been sacked and ruined. The churches were demolished. The magnificent school, just completed at great cost, was pulled to the ground. The town was surrounded that no one might leave after the first flight of the women and children, and the Mussulmans from the neighbourhood surpassed the Gheghs in savagery and pillage.

(Translation.) *Ampelahia, September* $\frac{18}{30}$, 1877.

The most respectfully undersigned, your slaves, present ourselves with tears in our eyes, and with a heavy heart, to lay before the Pasha, our Effendi, all the wrongs we have suffered at the hands of the Gheghs, as well as at the hands of our neighbours (Mussulmen), the villagers of Derelou, Maerichori, Pournari, Hadjibashi, and Hoïbashi. They have entered our houses, and to most of us they have not left so much as a shirt. They have pillaged our churches, respecting nothing sacred. They have taken our beasts of burthen, horses, mules, and asses, as many as they could lay hands upon, fifty in all, and have not returned them. They beat all our people mercilessly, so that, to escape beating and torments, men, women, and children have taken to the mountains, flying to Karitza, a distance of six hours. Two girls have been killed at the rocks, and many men have been wounded; our ruin equals no description. Our people are shut in our houses, and neither have flour nor can they go to the mill, but eat boiled maize, all waiting when the Gheghs may depart, so that they may abandon the village, and each go whither he may escape. You are our Effendi, take pity upon us, and hasten to save us, that we may not all perish, and perish unjustly.

(Signed and sealed by the Muchtars and Primates.)

No. 5.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 1.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 30 Octobre*, 1877.

IL résulte d'un télégramme de Suleyman Pacha que les troupes auxiliaires ont réussi à délivrer un certain nombre de Musulmans, hommes et femmes, du village de Fautour et d'autres localités, et à les soustraire à l'affreux traitement qu'ont subi environ cent Musulmans du village de Kabapelikar. Ces malheureux ont été cernés par la cavalerie Russe et faits prisonniers; puis on les a livrés aux Bulgares qui, après leur avoir lié les mains derrière le dos, les ont conduit dans un endroit écarté où tous ont été massacrés. Parmi eux se trouvait un jeune homme de 18 ans, dont le père, nommé Ahmed Agha, est en proie au plus profond désespoir. L'œuvre de sang entreprise par les Bulgares continue à s'accomplir avec la complicité des Russes.

No. 6.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 1, 1877.

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS telegraphs, dated Bogot, October 31:—At Dubnik and Telish 7,000 prisoners and 7 guns were captured; among prisoners were two English doctors and an English Colonel in Turkish service. Bridge at Radamirce occupied by Russians on retreat of Chevket.

No. 7.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 665.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1202 of the 12th ultimo, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your having brought to the serious notice of the Turkish Government the reports which you have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Salonica with reference to the conduct of the Albanian irregulars of the Ghegha tribe, who have been sent by the Porte to the Greek frontier.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 8.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 667.)

Sir *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1225 of the 19th ultimo, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction that His Majesty the Sultan entirely repudiates Ibrahim Pasha's language, and has ordered his immediate recall from Philippopolis.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 9.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 668.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1211 of the 16th ultimo, forwarding copies of despatches from Vice-Consuls Calvert and Dupuis, inclosing lists of the Bulgarians who have been executed in the districts of Philippopolis and Adrianople, and I have to state to

you that Her Majesty's Government have received with great regret these lists of executions.

It is to be hoped that the recall of Ibrahim Pasha will put a stop to further indiscriminate proceedings.

Your Excellency cannot too strongly, in the interests of the Porte itself, urge the speedy issue of an amnesty, and the re-establishment of order in these districts, with efficient and impartial courts of justice in place of the irregular military courts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 10.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 671.)
Foreign Office, November 1, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1216 of the 16th ultimo, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your having strongly urged upon Server Pasha the importance of not sending to Prince Milan the telegram protesting against Servian military preparations which was referred to in your Excellency's despatch No. 1176 of the 8th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 11.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1224.)
Therapia, October 19, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour of presenting Admiral Hornby to the Sultan yesterday. His Majesty asked the Admiral several questions about the fleet under his command, and expressed a hope that he would visit some of the Turkish iron-clads, and freely criticise anything that might strike him in their condition.

His Majesty said that it was his earnest desire that the Turkish navy should be brought to resemble that of England, which he wished to make his model in all respects.

I presented at the same time to His Majesty Mr. Goldney, the member for Chippenham, and Mr. Edwards, the Member for Weymouth, with whom he had an interesting conversation about the Turkish Constitution and Parliament. His Majesty told them that they might rest assured that it was his firm intention to maintain the liberal institutions which he had granted to his Empire, and to govern all classes of his subjects with justice, without regard to race or creed.

His Majesty added, that too much must not be expected of a Parliament called together for the first time, and composed of men from different parts of the Turkish Empire, who were entirely without experience and ignorant of the functions of a representative Assembly. He thought, however, that it must be admitted that the first Parliament had given good hopes, and he trusted that the next, which would soon assemble, would do better still.

Both Mr. Goldney and Mr. Edwards seemed much struck by His Majesty's intelligence and courtesy, and by the liberal sentiments he expressed. His Majesty said that he was glad to see them in Turkey, and trusted that they would obtain all possible information as to its condition and that of his people. All he wanted was that the real truth with regard to them should be known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 12.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1227. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 19, 1877.

THE inclosed document, purporting to be the opinion of the Legal Advisers of the Porte with regard to the right of Turkey to hold and fortify the position of Punta at the entrance to the Gulf of Arta has been given to me confidentially.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Document purporting to be Opinion of the Legal Advisers of the Porte on question as to whether Turkey should hold and fortify the position of Punta.

LE Gouvernement ayant posé la question de savoir s'il a le droit d'augmenter les fortifications de Punta, les Avocats de la Porte ont donné l'avis suivant :—

"Le seul acte international qui regit les conditions de la possession du fort de Punta par la Sublime Porte est le Traité de Londres du 9 Juillet, 1832, signé entre les Puissances garantes, pour déterminer les limites du Royaume de Grèce, Traité auquel ont adhéré la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Hellénique.

"L'Article 6 de ce Traité est ainsi conçu :—

"Le fort de Punta, ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, devant rester à la Porte pour compléter la défense de Prévésa, et pour mieux garantir la sécurité de son commerce, il ne pourra s'y trouver qu'une garnison suffisante à l'occasion de ce port; il s'entend que les autorités Ottomanes n'apporteront aucun empêchement au passage des bâtiments Grecs, et sauf les droits de douane et autres qui seraient dus à la Sublime Porte dans le cas où les bâtiments relacheraient à Punta Prévésa et autres échelles Turques du Golfe d'Arta, elle ne leur demanderont rien pour le passage.

"Les deux seules obligations imposées à la Sublime Porte pour l'occupation du fort de Punta, sauf de laisser le libre passage aux bâtiments Turcs, et de n'entretenir à Punta qu'une garnison suffisante à l'occupation de ce port.

"Les Soussignés estiment les conséquences que le Gouvernement Impérial a le droit en principe et d'une manière générale d'augmenter les fortifications de Punta, soit pour lui donner plus d'étendue, soit pour mettre ces ouvrages en rapport avec les règles nouvelles de l'article de la guerre.

"Toutefois deux restrictions doivent être à leur avis apportées à l'exercice de ce droit :—

"La première c'est que les nouvelles fortifications ne soient pas assez considérables pour nécessiter la présence d'une garnison notablement plus forte que celle qui était jugée suffisante avant l'exécution des nouveaux travaux, ce qui serait contraire à l'esprit de la disposition susvisée, qui semble exclure l'idée de la présence à Punta d'un corps de troupes considérable. La seconde restriction c'est que les nouvelles fortifications ne doivent pas être élevées dans le but ostensible d'augmenter les moyens d'attaque ou de défense du côté de terre, c'est-à-dire du côté du territoire Grec, ce qui serait également en désaccord avec l'Article 8 précité, qui donne à la Sublime Porte la possession du fort de Punta dans le but exclusif de compléter la défense de Prévésa et de mieux garantir la sécurité de son commerce.

Constantinople, le 13 *Octobre*, 1877.

No. 13.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1229. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 19, 1877.

MEHEMET ALI PASHA, the late Commander-in-chief of the Turkish army of the Danube, called upon me yesterday. I had a long and interesting conversation with him. He attributes his recall to intrigues at the Palace, and his want of success to the

refusal of Suleiman Pasha to turn the Shipka Pass, and to make a combined movement with himself and Osman Pasha against the Russians two months ago, which, he expressed his conviction, would have ended in driving the invaders over the Danube with disastrous losses. He accuses Suleiman Pasha of jealousy of himself, and of unnecessarily sacrificing the lives of his men and the success of the operations in Bulgaria, in order to obtain some brilliant victory over the Russians, which would have enabled him to carry out his design of getting the supreme command. He said that his failure to occupy the Russian positions at Bejin Verboka and Coprivca, and to turn Biela and enter Tirnova, was owing to the wilful neglect of Ahmed Eyoub Pasha to obey the orders he had received, and to bring up his division in support of the attack. He spoke very disparagingly of the Egyptian troops.

Mehemet Ali Pasha told me that he had not seen the Sultan, as I had been led to believe; but that he had been several times to the Palace, and had been in constant communication through Said Pasha with His Majesty, who had assured him of his favour, and of his intention to avail himself again of his services. He thought that Mahmoud Damat Pasha, who was the principal supporter of Suleiman Pasha, had thrown obstacles in the way of a personal interview with the Sultan. He said that he had been able to place before the Ministers and the highest military authorities the state of military affairs in Bulgaria, and had been assured by them that had they known the truth he would not have been recalled. He complained that he was constantly receiving peremptory orders from the Ministry of War to advance against the Russians. Had he obeyed them, he might have met with a similar disaster to that which had befallen Moukhtar Pasha, who by leaving his strong positions to attack the enemy had exposed himself to certain defeat. However admirable were the fighting qualities of the Turkish soldiers, a Turkish army was not a "mobile" one. It had no organised commissariat; its ammunition and provisions were transported on bullock carts. Under such conditions it was almost impossible to carry on rapid offensive movements against an enemy.

Mehemet Ali Pasha believes that the Russians will not attempt to attack Suleiman Pasha, who, if he remains on the defensive, which he is now, the Pasha said, ordered to do, will be able to hold his positions against any force the enemy could bring against him. If, therefore, Osman Pasha could maintain himself at Plevna, of which he seemed confident, the Russians will be compelled, the Pasha thinks, to abandon Shipka, Tirnova, and Biela, and to send the greater part of their army across the Danube and to place the rest in winter-quarters at Sistova and Nicopoli, where they have constructed "têtes de pont," armed with heavy guns brought over the river for the siege of Rustchuk and other Turkish fortresses. The Turkish forces could not, therefore, in winter attack or besiege these "têtes de pont" with any chance of success. The Russians would thus be able to renew the campaign in the spring, with the great advantage of having already secured the passage of the Danube. The reason Mehemet Ali Pasha gave for his belief that the Russians would not leave their strong positions on the Yantra to attack Suleiman Pasha was that the weather was now very unfavourable to military operations; that although there might yet be fine days, their continuance was very uncertain; and that in the event of sudden heavy rain the Russians might find themselves in a position in which, from the state of the country and the want of roads, they could neither advance nor retreat, nor bring up their necessary supplies. They would not, he thought, venture to run this risk.

Mehemet Ali Pasha believes, from the information he has received from prisoners, that much illness prevails in the Russian army, principally scurvy, typhus fever, and dysentery. It would seem also that the Russians are greatly in want of provisions. The bread that has been found in the sacks of the Russian soldiers, he said, was scarcely fit for human food.

I questioned Mehemet Ali Pasha as to the reports that the Russian wounded were murdered on the field of battle, and that no prisoners were taken, or quarter given, by the Turkish troops. He emphatically declared that these reports were untrue. He said that it was true that but few prisoners were taken, because the Russians either refused to give themselves up, as they had been induced to believe that, if they fell into the hands of the Turks, they would be barbarously mutilated and tortured, or they managed to run away and escape. Such prisoners as had been made had been kindly treated, and he had given the strictest orders to his troops, which he believed had been obeyed, that no outrages should be committed upon the wounded or the dead. The Turkish soldiers were incapable of such acts of barbarity as had been attributed to them. But he grieved to have to admit, he said, that the so-called Bashi-Bazouks had been guilty of the most shocking outrages and cruelty. Those who passed under this name were not all irregulars in the actual service of the Porte. The army was followed by a large number of men who had fled from their villages, which had been devastated by the Russians and Bulgarians,

and whose wives and children were wandering over the country in the utmost misery. They were naturally exasperated against the invaders of their country, and revenged themselves upon the unfortunate wounded Russians whom they might find on the field of battle. He did not deny that the irregulars had also committed cruelties and excesses, but he said that it was most difficult to keep them under control. He had done his utmost to do so, and had hung a number of them as a warning to the rest. He was now endeavouring to prevail upon the Porte to form a military police to accompany the armies. But, unfortunately, men and money were wanted for the purpose. The explanations given to me by Mehemet Ali Pasha on this subject are corroborated, as your Lordship will find, by the reports that I have transmitted to your Lordship from the Military Attachés to the Embassy.

Sir Collingwood Dickson had an opportunity of speaking to Mehemet Ali Pasha, and learning his Excellency's views on matters connected with the military operations in Bulgaria, and will, I have no doubt, report to me, for your Lordship's information, upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 14.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1230. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 19, 1877.*

MEHEMET ALI PASHA, when calling upon me yesterday, told me that he had been doing his utmost, since his return to Constantinople from his command in Bulgaria, to prove to the Sultan and his Ministers the importance of making peace during the necessary suspension of military operations in the winter. He said that he had particularly insisted upon the inevitable exhaustion of the resources of the Empire, and especially of the Turkish Mussulman population, if this war were to continue. He was by no means of opinion, he observed, that the Russians, as it seemed to be generally believed in Europe, would carry everything before them in a second campaign. On the contrary, he thought that if the Turkish armies were well commanded and proper use were made of the time gained in the winter to bring up the battalions to their effective strength, and to make proper provision and arrangements for next year, Turkey might still oppose a successful resistance to the Russian invasion. But even if ultimately victorious, she would be so completely exhausted that it would take her very many years to recover, even if she could do so at all. He believed that both the Sultan and the Porte were fully persuaded of this, and were very desirous that some means should be found, by mediation or otherwise, to bring the war to an end.

Mehemet Ali Pasha went on to say that as he had found the Sultan and his advisers disposed to accept mediation, he had wished to speak on the subject with the German Ambassador, as he was convinced that the only offer of mediation which the Emperor of Russia would be likely to accept must come from the Emperor William.

Prince Reuss being absent on a shooting excursion, he had been unable to see His Highness, but he had had a confidential conversation with M. Testa, the very able first Dragoman of the German Embassy, who was perfectly well acquainted with the views of the Prince and of the German Government on this subject. M. Testa, Mehemet Ali Pasha said, had spoken to him very frankly. He had observed that no mediation except that of the Emperor of Germany would be accepted by Russia, an offer coming from any other quarter would even probably be resented; but one word from the Emperor William would be sufficient to put an end to the war. The Emperor of Russia attached the greatest value to any advice coming from his uncle, for whom he had a deep affection, and whose influence over him was very great. But the Emperor of Germany could not consent to his nephew being defeated and humiliated by the Turks. If, however, the Russians could obtain one important victory to satisfy their national pride, M. Testa thought that the Emperor William would not be indisposed to advise his nephew to make peace. For instance, if the Russians had taken Plevna he might have offered his mediation, and there was reason to believe that the Emperor of Russia would have accepted very moderate and reasonable terms.

On Mehemet Ali Pasha's asking M. Testa what those terms might probably have been, he replied that some kind of distinct engagement or promise to Europe from the Porte that the Turkish Constitution should be observed, and that the Christian subjects

of the Sultan should be treated with justice and be placed on a footing of equality with Mussulmans, would have satisfied the Emperor Alexander, who would have been able to reconcile his people to the failure of the war by making them some political concessions.

Mehemet Ali Pasha said that he should see Prince Reuss on his return to Buyukderé, and promised to let me know the result of his interview with his Highness.

I have thought it desirable to report to your Lordship what Mehemet Ali Pasha said to me. Your Lordship will be able to judge of its worth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 15.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1234.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 20, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 551 of the 24th ultimo, I have more than once called the attention of the Porte to the conduct of the Governor of Trebizond with regard to the repatriation of the Mingrelians.

The Grand Vizier assures me that no difficulty will be placed in the way of those who desire to return to their country, and that the Porte will be ready to do what it can to convey them there. But it will not be now easy to communicate with the Circassian coast, which is again in the occupation of the Russians.

I have spoken on the subject of these Mingrelians with the Italian Minister, Count Corti, to whose Consul at Trebizond the protection of Russian subjects and interests is entrusted.

He agrees with me in thinking that the matter has been a good deal exaggerated, and that the Consuls at that port have shown rather too much activity and zeal in the affair.

I can have little doubt, from what I have heard from various sources, and have gathered from Consul Biliotti's despatches, that these people did leave their country voluntarily. The Turkish authorities could have no reason or motive for compelling them to do so; quite the contrary.

It appears that they profess no very definite religion, and are Mussulmans or Christians according to circumstances. It would seem as if the mullas and the priests tried to get hold of them, and that whilst the former may have been backed by the Pashas, the latter had recourse to the Consuls. It is quite evident that the petitions which were addressed to the Consuls were not the production of the poor ignorant Mingrelians, and it is not improbable that there was, as usual, an intrigue at the bottom of the business.

It is very probable that the emigrants, finding themselves less well off than they expected, and being exposed to much want and hardship, were easily persuaded to declare that they had been brought away from their homes against their will, and that they wished to return. But it must be admitted that it is rather hard upon the Porte that it should now be called upon to take them back at great inconvenience and expense.

I believe that Prince Reuss has felt this, and has consequently made but very mild representations on the subject to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 16.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1235.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 20, 1877.*

IT gives me much satisfaction to be able to state to your Lordship that the promise given to me by the Sultan that Ibrahim Pasha, the military Governor of Philippopolis, should be immediately dismissed, in consequence of his conduct towards the Bulgarians, was at once fulfilled.

Vice-Consul Calvert informs me that Ibrahim Pasha was to leave Philippopolis this morning. I trust that this example will tend to restrain the proceedings of those who are,

I am convinced, acting in direct opposition to the wishes and humane sentiments of His Majesty, in treating the Bulgarian prisoners with unnecessary severity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 17.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1237. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 21, 1877.*

COUNT ZICHY, in speaking with me yesterday of the feeling which is said to be springing up amongst the Bulgarian Christians against the Russians, observed that the same thing had occurred in Servia. When the Russian officers and volunteers first went there to aid the Servians in their war against the Turks, they were received as friends and liberators. But these feelings soon changed after the Servians had had a short experience of the conduct of the Russians towards them. His Excellency told me that he had received a report from Toultcha, stating that the Russian authorities had ordered the Bulgarian inhabitants of the town to celebrate the Emperor Alexander's birthday, by going to the Greek church, by accepting the performance of religious service on that day by the Greek Bishop, and by closing their shops. They had refused to obey either of these orders, and it was necessary to shut up their shops by force.

I have heard, on good authority, that many of the unhappy Bulgarians who have been executed for their participation in the insurrection against the Sultan have denounced the Russians in their last moments as the cause of their misfortunes. The hostile feelings of the Bulgarians against Russia will no doubt be much increased by their hatred of the Greek Patriarchate and clergy, and by the fear that they will seek to recover their power and influence over the Bulgarian section of the Oriental Church.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 18.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1238.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 21, 1877.*

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's despatch to your Lordship No. 268 of the 17th instant, a copy of which he has sent to me, Server Pasha informs me that Photiades Bey reports to him that Russia is bringing great pressure to bear upon the Greek Government in order to induce them to make war upon Turkey, but that the Turkish Minister at Athens has good hopes that her counsels will not be listened to.

I observed to his Excellency that such being Photiades Bey's opinion, it was of the greatest importance that the Turkish Government should pursue a conciliatory policy towards Greece, and not give her any cause to suspect that the Porte was hostile to her.

Server Pasha assured me that if Greece would only maintain a friendly and neutral attitude with respect to Turkey, it was his earnest desire to settle all questions which might arise between the two countries in the most just and conciliatory spirit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 19.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1240. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 21, 1877.*

SERVER PASHA told me yesterday that Baron Orczy (?) informed the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin that the affair of the release from prison of the three persons condemned for participation in the murder of the Consuls at Salonica having been satisfactorily settled, and the Porte having shown that it could maintain public order, the

German Government had decided upon withdrawing their iron-clad fleet from the Mediterranean.

This communication on the part of Baron Orczy (?), his Excellency observed, had given him matter for reflection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 20.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1243.) *Therapia, October 22, 1877.*

My Lord,

WHEN the Sultan went on Friday last, in public, to one of the mosques, as it is the custom for the Ottoman Emperors to do, he was received by a large crowd with a warmth and enthusiasm as remarkable as unusual. Some English gentlemen who were present on the occasion informed me that they were very much impressed by the scene. There is no doubt that His Majesty has acquired the affections of his subjects, and enjoys a popularity such as none of his predecessors for a long time past have attained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 21.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1247.) *Therapia, October 22, 1877.*

My Lord,

IN accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I have addressed a note to Server Pasha in the terms of your despatch No. 597 of the 11th instant, stating the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the permission given by the Porte to certain vessels to pass the line of blockade in the Black Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

No. 22.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1249.) *Therapia, October 24, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1210 of the 16th instant respecting the seizure of some Greek boats at Rhodes, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch on the subject from Mr. Vice-Consul Biliotti.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Rhodes, October 16, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that Her Majesty's ship "Condor," Commander Edward F. Day, after visiting some of the Turkish islands of the Archipelago, with mission to search for pirates and to investigate acts of piracy, arrived at Rhodes on the 9th instant.

I communicated to Commander Day the contents of my Report of the 8th instant, relative to the arrest of the three Hellenic Trikmdiris and of the sixty men forming their crew.

Commander Day, wishing to get some other details on the matter, had an interview with the Governor-General, Sawas Pasha, as also with the Greek Vice-Consul of Rhodes.

Having read over to Sawas Pasha, in the presence of Commander Day, some extracts of my Report, his Excellency looked very displeased for not having mentioned in the same that the master of the Turkish boat on which some shots had been fired had already given his written statement or bill of indictment, statement confirmed by the deposition of another person, and that these two documents had been immediately transmitted by his Excellency to the Turkish Tribunal of Rhodes.

The Governor-General having pointed out twice to Commander Day his disappointment for the above-mentioned omission, I think it my duty to submit to your Excellency that, if I was to enter into these details, I would have been obliged to report at the same time what the Greek Vice-Consul had stated to me, viz., that the Turkish authorities had acted in this affair without his co-operation; that all had been done out of his presence; that he had not been informed immediately of the seizure of the boats; that he was obliged therefore to address a letter to the local authorities, asking for explanations, and that it was only in answer to his letter that he was informed of the measures already adopted; that he (the Greek Vice-Consul), having inquired from the President of the Tribunal, he was told that no regular bill of indictment had been submitted to the Court, &c.

Being unable to verify all these details, I did not think it advisable to report them, and merely stated that the case was to be submitted to the Tribunal for further investigations.

Commander Day, who has addressed to Admiral Hornby a report on the subject of these three suspected boats, told me that he shares entirely my opinion in thinking that the men arrested are not pirates in the proper meaning of the word, but that they may commit, if occasion offers them, robberies of cattle and other misdeeds of this kind.

Since the departure for Cyprus of Her Majesty's ship "Condor," which took place on the 12th instant, the Court met twice, if I mistake not, but nothing has yet been decided on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BILIOTTI.

No. 23.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1252.) *Therapia, October 24, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE relations between the Sultan and the Shah of Persia have recently been of a very friendly character. Several letters have passed between them, and the Sultan has received the Persian Minister once or twice in private audience, and invited him to dine at the palace one evening in Ramazan. Mohsin Khan informs me that the Shah has formed a very sincere friendship for the Sultan, and that the two Monarchs are desirous of acting together in the interests of Islam; but he complains that the orders given by the Sultan himself for the surrender and punishment of the frontier Kurds, who have been committing excesses in Persian villages, and have taken refuge within the Turkish territories, are not carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 24.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1255.) *Therapia, October 24, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE American missionaries, and other persons connected with the Protestant movement in Bulgaria, have represented to me that, in some instances, Protestant Bulgarians, who have been loyal subjects of the Sultan and have taken no part whatever in the insurrection against the Turkish Government, to which, on the contrary, they are entirely opposed, have been confounded with the Orthodox Bulgarians, and have been arrested, and in some cases, it is believed, have suffered in the massacres that have taken place. I have brought these representations to the notice of the Grand Vizier and Server Pasha, and have urged upon them the justice and policy of not confounding the Protestant Bulgarians with those who have been guilty of rebellion, but rather of affording them protection, and encouraging them in their loyal behaviour.

Server Pasha has been good enough to inform me that, in consequence of my representations, a Vizirial order has been sent by telegraph to the Valis of Adrianople, of the Danube, of Kossova, of Salonica, and of Janina, to instruct the authorities in their respective vilayets to protect and defend the Bulgarian Protestants, who are considered by the Imperial Government amongst the most faithful subjects of the Sultan.

I have acquainted the gentlemen connected with the Robert College and the American missionaries with this measure taken by the Porte, and I earnestly hope that the orders sent to the Turkish authorities will be strictly obeyed.

In justice to the Grand Vizier and Server Pasha, I am bound to state that several individual cases of the arrest of Bulgarian Protestants submitted by me to them have been promptly and satisfactorily dealt with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 25.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 2.*)

(No. 1258.) *Therapia, October 26, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 515 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inclose an instructive report addressed to me, at my request, by Captain Fraser, who is fully competent to speak with authority on the subject of the treatment of prisoners and of the wounded by both Turks and Russians on the field of battle, as he has been for some time at the head-quarters of the Turkish army in Bulgaria, and has been present at several important engagements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Captain Fraser to Mr. Layard.

Therapia, October 20, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to the treatment of wounded and prisoners in the war, you will, perhaps, permit me to mention a few facts that have come under my notice. It is undeniable that very few prisoners, wounded or unwounded, have been taken on either side.

The races engaged have been enemies for ages, and are of religious that have always been opposed to each other. Hence each side is ignorant of the ways and sentiments of the other; hence, too, the wounded themselves have made great efforts to escape, and on the Russian side the arrangements I have seen to facilitate this seem to be efficient.

On the actual fighting ground fear and distrust of each other have, I doubt not, led to a large number of wounded being killed, in the belief that they would fire on the enemy after he passed. The Turks being indifferent to death when wounded, only think of revenge, and I dare say do use their arms after falling, and they naturally expect the Russian wounded to do the same. At Osicova a Turk had seven bayonet wounds after falling, probably because he tried, or seemed to try, and fire on the Russians as they advanced. At Kacelevo a Turkish officer after falling received ten lance wounds from Cossacks, with probably less or no excuse on their part.

On the other hand, Aziz Pasha, as he lay wounded, was called upon to surrender by a Russian officer, anxious to save his life; he shot the officer through the neck, and was killed at once by the Russians at hand.

Fuad Pasha told me he was fired on the day after Kacelevo by a wounded Russian in a wood he passed. Such contingencies will always occur, but undoubtedly the bulk of the cruelties lie at the door of the irregulars on both sides. I was not with the Russians, but I have heard from Turkish officers that many of their men have been mutilated, though they ascribe this more to the Bulgarians than to the Cossacks; on the other hand, the Bashi-Bazouks and also the Circassians have done infinite harm to the Turkish cause, and incidentally have hindered desertion among the Russians. The Bashi-Bazouks are under no control. I was told by a Colonel on the staff, a man of European education, and, I believe, an aide-de-camp to the Sultan, that he had himself seen the Bashi-Bazouks dig up Turkish dead to rob the bodies, and he thought them capable of killing even Turks to

do so. To the question why they were not punished with death, he replied that such punishment, though recognized as a military one, was contrary to religion, and they could not venture to enforce it. I have seen these Bashi-Bazouks hanging about every action, and being often the first on the field when danger is past; they capture the few prisoners who are left behind, or take charge of them from the regulars, in which case they constantly murder them.

I have myself seen them searching the bodies of Turkish dead to collect ammunition and arms, which they are storing in a way likely to give much trouble to the future Governors of Bulgaria.

In speaking of Bashi-Bazouks, it should be borne in mind that there are two classes of Bashi-Bazouks, the armed peasants, who stay near their own villages, and the professional camp followers. The latter are those who do most injury, and add the burning of churches and the wrecking of railway stations to their other offences. Under Mehemet Ali an effort was made to stop their excesses by ordering all of them to the rear, and by flogging those caught looting; but means were wanting for enforcing this at all effectually.

I did not myself see much mutilation, but in one case, at least, I noticed a stripped corpse, which I am satisfied was Russian, with the throat nearly severed, evidently not in action.

On the whole it would appear that, though causes due to race and religion have led to cruelties on the field among the regular troops in excess of those to be expected in civilized warfare, the balance is chiefly due to the uncontrolled bands of armed men on the Turkish side, and to the lack of discipline among the Russian irregulars, notably the Cossacks.

Count Cheremetief, a Russian parlementaire, who visited Mehemet Ali in September, remarked, in excuse for the excesses of the Cossacks, that it was not possible for them to keep an officer with every man.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. FRASER, *Captain, R.E.*

No. 26.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 2.*)

(No. 274.) *Athens, October 25, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a translation by Mr. Lambros of a letter, dated Volo the 17th October, and published on the 21st instant in the "Hora," the organ of M. Tricoupi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, reporting the arrival at the above-mentioned town of a number of Bashi-Bazouks, and giving details of the murder by some of their number of three Christians named respectively Johann Polukruyn, of Zagora, Demetrius Paschale, of Makrunitzy, and Megalon, and mentioning other deeds of violence and robbery committed by these ruffians, notwithstanding the presence, it would appear, by the letter, in the town of a certain number of regular troops.

I have further the honour to inclose an extract from the "Messager d'Athènes," also reporting gross acts of violence and robbery committed by Bashi-Bazouks and Guégues in the Provinces of Thessaly and Macedonia; the "Messager d'Athènes" does not, however, as does the letter in the "Hora," name the persons who have suffered at their hands.

I called upon M. Tricoupi to-day and I asked him if he placed complete reliance in the writer of the letter published in the "Hora;" he answered in the affirmative, adding that the letter in question was written by the Greek Consul, and he went on to say that he had received many other complaints, not only from persons in Thessaly and Macedonia, but from persons in Greece who had relatives in those provinces, and that a great deal of pressure was being put upon the Government to force them to take some action to get the abuses remedied; and he added that if Greece had not, as she has, at the present moment, a strong Government determined to prevent all acts of aggression upon Turkish territory, it would be very difficult for the Government to withstand the force of public opinion.

His Excellency said that he did not wish to address any observations or to make any remarks to the Ottoman Government as to the number of troops they might think proper to quarter in their provinces, but that he did think the Greek Government had the right to make observations when the Turkish troops were committing acts of violence against Greek subjects or persons of the Hellenic race. M. Tricoupi told me that his Government was most anxious to be upon good terms with the Porte, but that in order to

engender and maintain a friendly feeling between the two countries care should be taken by the one as well as by the other to do nothing to dispel that feeling.

He said with reference to the acts of violence, or with regard to other questions which might give rise to dispute, he had instructed the Greek Consuls to close their eyes if possible; and if they saw the Turkish authorities were doing their best to apply a remedy; but if that was not possible, then to protest, and to protest strongly, but always in a conciliatory spirit, and to avoid doing anything to create or intensify any bitterness of feeling.

Mr. Layard forwarded to me in a despatch which reached me on the 22nd instant, copy of his despatch No. 1218 of the 17th instant to your Lordship, in which his Excellency mentions to your Lordship that there is a better feeling at the Porte towards Greece, and the desirability that the Albanian Guéghes and other irregular troops should be removed from the Greek frontiers, and stating that he shall continue to urge this upon the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I mentioned this to M. Tricoupi, and I sincerely trust that Her Majesty's Ambassador may be successful in his endeavours, for it is a matter of the highest importance in the interests of peace, as well as those of humanity, that acts of violence by Turkish troops in the provinces of Thessaly and Macedonia should be repressed with a strong hand by the Turkish authorities, for should the Greeks wish for a pretext for hostilities with Turkey there is perhaps no other which they would be more likely to choose from the fact that it would be, in their opinion, a just pretext, and at the same time one which would in all probability enlist the sympathies of other Christian nations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Extract from the "Hora" of October $\frac{11}{23}$, 1877.

(Translation.) *Volo, October $\frac{5}{17}$, 1877.*

ON the $\frac{24}{12}$th instant, a Tunisian steamer landed here 700 Bashi-Bazouks from Constantinople, a mixture of all races, Guégues, Albanians, Merendites, &c.; of these, the Guégues from Constantinople were either bakers, dyers, vendors of salep and kouloura, servants, porters, and condemned criminals, and the remainder were from the lowest grade of villains, dressed in different costumes, but in rags and without shoes, and mostly without arms, though some had yataghans and pistols. About forty were landed bare-footed, and with no other dress than cotton trowsers and shirts; they had come out of prison, and they say that amongst them was the entire band of the Epirote brigand Hadgi-Gounara. In a word, those who arrived are from the lowest rank of houseless villains from Constantinople, recruited to maintain order in Thessaly. Of the officers who command them, the subordinate are of the same class; the superior officers are dressed in military uniforms. Their arrival here has discouraged the Ottomans, who perceive in them the exhaustion of the forces of the Empire. These outcasts receive a pay of 100 paper piastres per month, and 300 drams of bread daily. On Monday, 250 left for Larissa, and the remainder on Tuesday, and it is asserted by many that they are to be concentrated on the frontier line. Yesterday morning a great many of them took up positions on the roads leading from the villages to the town, hardly five minutes distant from the houses, seizing and robbing all travellers. With their yataghans they murdered at this place three peaceful Christians, heads of families; the one named Joannis Polychronon, from Zagora, they slaughtered in a hut; the other, named Demetrius Paschali, from Macrynitzi, they murdered inside his own vineyard; and the third, named Megalon, was murdered a few steps further. Since yesterday, these unfortunate beings have been lying dead, and no one has dared to denounce the act. After the departure of the Bashi-Bazouks, the bodies were brought to a public place, and terror possessed every one on beholding such a dreadful sight. The heads were torn to pieces, and the bodies bore marks of more than twenty wounds. The authorities seemed satisfied with the inspection of the bodies by a surgeon, and instituted no inquiry for the discovery of the guilty.

These acts of brutality have produced a general panic, as life evidently depends upon the will of the Bashi-Bazouks. Since such acts are being committed at Volo before the eyes of the representatives of foreign Powers and a number of regular troops, what must then take place in the country villages?

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of October 20, 1877.

LES EXCÈS DES GUÉGUES EN THESSALIE.—LES excès commis par les troupes auxiliaires Ottomanes (Circassiens, Zeibeks, et Albanais) en Thessalie ont plongé dans la consternation les habitants de cette malheureuse province. Les journaux d'Athènes et parfois, mais avec plus de réserve, ceux de Constantinople, enrégistrent chaque jour les abominables exploits des bandes indisciplinées que la Turquie a eu l'imprudence de rapprocher des frontières de la Grèce. Ni la vie, ni les biens, ni l'honneur des Chrétiens ne sont en sûreté; des Musulmans mêmes sont souvent maltraités par leurs coreligionnaires, qui mettent un peu trop en pratique le proverbe que ce qui est bon à prendre est aussi bon à garder. En effet une fois qu'ils se sont emparés de quelque chose, ils trouvent moyen, grâce à l'impuissance des autorités locales, d'en tirer le parti le plus avantageux. Ils le cèdent à des receleurs qui vont le vendre dans des villes ou des villages éloignés de l'endroit où les vols ont été commis; puis partagent les bénéfices avec les malfaiteurs.

La procédure Turque, dont on connaît les lenteurs et les défectuosités, encourage ces malversations. Il est difficile à un Chrétien de faire saisir un objet volé entre les mains d'un tiers. Les démarches à faire dans ce cas sont si coûteuses, quand elles réussissent, que vous préférez perdre l'objet volé plutôt que de vous adresser à la justice Ottomane.

Mais il paraît que ce que les malheureux Thessaliens ont souffert jusqu'ici n'est rien en comparaison de ce qui les attend à l'arrivée des bergers Albanais Musulmans, parents et alliés des Guégues, qui commencent à descendre dans les plaines où ils passent l'hiver. On écrit à cet effet de Larissa au "Phare de l'Othrys," journal de Lamia, que de notables Musulmans, frappés des excès commis par les Guégues, ont fait des démarches auprès des autorités Ottomanes pour les engager à sévir contre ceux d'entre eux qui se livrent au brigandage. On leur a répondu brusquement de ne plus renouveler leurs démarches. Les habitants de Pharsale, où les Guégues se livrent au brigandage, ont envoyé une députation à Larissa pour supplier le Gouverneur de rappeler les Guégues ou de leur permettre d'émigrer. Le Gouverneur a fait droit à leur réclamation, mais il a remplacé les Guégues par des Zeibeks. C'est tomber de Charybde en Scylla.

On lit dans la "Metarithmissis" de Constantinople:—

"Des voyageurs venus de Elissoura nous ont appris que des Guégues, au nombre de 50 à 60, ont pénétré dans ce village, qu'ils avaient déjà rançonné une fois. Ils ont commencé par décharger leurs fusils afin de terroriser les habitants, puis ils sont entrés dans la maison du notable Pierre Sinotas, où ils se sont installés. Ce dernier s'étant (pour éviter les mauvais traitements qui l'attendaient) évadé par une porte de derrière, les Guégues se sont mis à piller sa maison et ont emporté tout ce qu'il y avait sur des chariots. On évalue à 25,000 fr. le dommage causé à M. Sinotas."

On écrit de Larissa au même journal: "Il y a quelques jours, le Gouverneur de Larissa ordonnait aux Guégues de marcher à la poursuite des brigands. Ils passèrent par la Vallée de Tempé, traversèrent les villages de Rapsani à Ambelakia, de Litoforon et autres où ces vandales se sont livrés au vol, aux viols, et meurtres! Ils déshonorèrent les femmes, massacrèrent un grand nombre d'hommes, semèrent partout la terreur sur leur passage. Après avoir brûlé les temples, ils en fouillèrent les fondations dans l'espoir de trouver des trésors qu'ils supposaient y avoir été cachés par les habitants et par les prêtres. Tous ceux qui avaient pu s'échapper s'étaient réfugiés dans les montagnes, où ils se cachaient dans les grottes et les cavernes en proie pendant plusieurs jours aux douleurs de la faim. A Ambelakia, deux jeunes filles, qu'ils avaient voulu violer, préférèrent se briser contre les rochers plutôt que de tomber entre les mains de ces forcenés. Quatre autres jeunes filles furent d'abord violées par eux; deux d'entre elles ont été égorgées immédiatement après; ils demandent une forte rançon pour mettre les deux autres en liberté. D'autres femmes qui ont voulu résister ont été percées à coups de baïonnette et de yatagan. Plusieurs hommes ont été mutilés. Après ces excès, ils ont emportés le bétail et tous les meubles des villageois. On dit même que des Cognards (Musulmans) des environs, qui respiraient la vengeance contre les Chrétiens, s'étaient unis aux Guégues."

Tous ces actes de barbarie, qui font un tort irréparable à la Turquie, auraient pu être évités. Il aurait suffi de faire remplacer les troupes auxiliaires par deux ou trois bataillons de troupes régulières. La Porte aura beau vouloir faire tomber sur ces troupes irrégulières la responsabilité de pareils forfaits, personne n'ajoutera foi à ses déclarations. Et qui sait si le sang des héroïques jeunes filles, qui ont préféré une mort affreuse au déshonneur, ne pèsera pas un jour d'un grand poids dans la balance des destinées de la Turquie?

On écrit de Cavalla (Macédoine) que les environs de cette ville sont infestés par des brigands, Circassiens, Zébeks, et autres, qui ont déserté les rangs de l'armée Ottomane. Ces brigands, au nombre de 400 environ, sont campés dans les forêts des districts de Xanthi et de Sari-Saupanio, et les villages montagneux de Codgia Ourman, Dramas, et Cavallas, habités par les Musulmans. Ils sont maîtres de tous les grands chemins et nul Chrétien n'ose s'aventurer à quelques pas des villages des environs. Chaque jour ces bandits commettent des vols et rançonnent sans pitié tous les Chrétiens qui tombent en leur pouvoir.

No. 27.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 275.) *Athens, October 25, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Tricoupi told me to-day that he was in hopes that all questions at issue between the Porte might be settled in an unofficial and friendly manner, but that he was afraid that Server Pasha was, judging from what he had recently said to M. Condouriotis, making reservation on certain points, viz., that the Porte could not withdraw the Bashi-Bazouks from Thessaly, or cancel the Circular as to the closing of the Gulf of Arta after dark, or discontinue the erection of fortifications at Punta; and he said that he was about to address an official note to the Hellenic Minister at Constantinople on the subject.

I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, an extract from the "Messager d'Athènes," purporting to be the note addressed by M. Condouriotis to the Porte on the closing of the Gulf of Arta by the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of October 20, 1877.

VOICI le texte de la note envoyée à la Porte par le Cabinet d'Athènes à propos de la passe de Prévésa:—

"*Bouyouk-Déré, le* $\frac{25\ \text{Août}}{7\ \text{Septembre}}$ 1877.

"M. le Ministre,

"J'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir la note circulaire de votre Excellence en date du 25 Août, par laquelle vous m'informez que le Gouvernement Impérial vient d'interdire provisoirement et jusqu'à nouvel avis l'entrée et la sortie de la passe de Prévésa à tous navires et embarcations après le coucher du soleil.

"La Légation du Roi, par ses notes réitérées, et le Gouvernement Royal à Athènes, par sa communication à Photiadés Bey, en date du 29 Avril, 1867, ont démontré à la Sublime Porte l'inanité de sa prétention tendant à se constituer maîtresse du détroit de Prévésa, par la raison qu'elle est en possession du fort de Punta, qui domine l'endroit en question.

"Aussi n'ai-je pas besoin d'entrer dans de longues explications à cet égard.

"Il me suffira, cependant, M. le Ministre, de rappeler à votre Excellence que les droits découlant de notre qualité de Puissance riveraine du Golfe d'Arta ne sauraient nullement être infirmés par la circonstance que la Porte possède les deux pointes de terre qui ferment l'entrée du détroit du port de Prévésa. Il en est ainsi en vertu du principe généralement admis en cette matière et d'après lequel, à défaut de stipulation contraire, la possession de deux rives à l'entrée d'une mer ou d'un golfe n'implique pas en faveur du possesseur le droit d'interdire l'accès de cette mer. Il l'est, à plus forte raison, par suite des conditions expresses auxquelles la cession du Promontoire de Punta a été soumise par l'acte international qui consacre cette cession.

"En effet, c'est un des préceptes non contestés du droit international que la liberté des mers et des eaux ne peut être restreinte que par des stipulations formelles reconnues et acceptées par les Etats riverains. Quant aux eaux fermées, telles que golfes, rades, ports, elles appartiennent à l'Etat ou aux Etats dont elles baignent le rivage. Or, il n'existe aucune stipulation de nature à restreindre nos droits quant à l'accès du Golfe Ambracique. Bien, au contraire, l'Article VI du Traité de 1832 a formellement stipulé

que les autorités Ottomanes n'apporteront aucun empêchement au passage des bâtiments Grecs.

"Il en résulte évidemment, M. le Ministre, que la Porte ne saurait, de sa propre autorité, et sans le consentement du Gouvernement du Roi, prendre des mesures portant empêchement au passage du détroit.

"Après tout ce que je viens d'exposer, je crois inutile d'entrer dans de plus longs développements et je me borne à déclarer que la modification susmentionnée de votre Excellence ne saurait interdire l'entrée de notre propre maison ni à nous-mêmes, ni à ceux que nous désirons y admettre.

"Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, à qui compète la note précitée de votre Excellence, a été communiquée par moi, me fait savoir que le Gouvernement du Roi considère la décision prise par la Porte comme nulle et non avenue en ce qui concerne la Grèce.

"Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) "COUNDOURIOTI."

No. 28.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 276.) *Athens, October 25, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt this day of your Lordship's despatch No. 80 of the 12th October, and to inclose herewith copy of a note which I have addressed, in compliance with your Lordship's orders, to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, explaining to the Greek Government the motives for the recent communications addressed to them by me as to their policy with regard to Turkey, and expressing the greatest satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at their present attitude.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Mr. Wyndham to M. Tricoupi.

Athens, October 25, 1877.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have this day received a despatch from the Earl of Derby, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in which he states that M. Gennadius, Greek Chargé d'Affaires in England, communicated to him on the 25th ultimo, copy of a despatch from your Excellency bearing date the 11th ultimo, dwelling upon the state of the relations between the Governments of the Sublime Porte and His Hellenic Majesty, and upon the communications which have passed on this subject between His Majesty's Government and myself.

The Earl of Derby, M. le Ministre, points out to me, with reference to your Excellency's observations, that the object of the communication which I have been instructed to make to His Majesty's Government, was not to interfere with the rights of Greece as an independent nation or to limit her legitimate freedom of action, but to induce the Greek Government to refrain from giving such provocation to Turkey as might involve their country in war with that Power, and expose it to the most serious dangers.

It was with this view that I was instructed to ask you if the Greek Government would authorize Her Majesty's Government to assure the Porte in their name of their peaceful intentions.

Your Excellency having in your reply distinctly limited your assurances to the present time, and the Porte having already stated that it could not accept them as satisfactory with such a reservation, Her Majesty's Government felt that it could be of no advantage to communicate those assurances to the Turkish Government as they stood.

In the advice which they have given to Greece, Her Majesty's Government have been actuated by equally friendly feelings towards both the Powers primarily concerned, and they still believe that the wisest policy for Greece to pursue is to maintain an attitude of strict and impartial neutrality, and to give Turkey no cause for supposing that she intends in certain eventualities to make war upon her or stir up insurrection in her provinces.

In making this communication to your Excellency, I am at the same time instructed to add that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with the greatest satisfaction from the

reports which they have recently received from me, that the Government of His Majesty are taking serious measures to prevent the passage of armed bands into Turkish territory, and that they appear to have every desire and intention to remain at peace with Turkey.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 29.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 463.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1877, 5·40 P.M.

Doctors Vachell and Douglas, sent out by Stafford House Committee, Captain Coope of the Turkish police, who was assisting to distribute relief to fugitives, and a Mr. Nicholas, appear to have been in Tchin when captured by Russians. Has anything been heard of them?

No. 30.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 464.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1877, 5·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, in consequence of my representations the Porte will not, I think, grant permission to ships to leave Black Sea and Sea of Azoff. It has been much pressed to do so by Italian Government and the Greeks here.

No. 31.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 465.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1877, 5·45 P.M.

BOTH Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs have assured me to-day that the Geshoffs are safe and will be brought here shortly. I do not think that they are in danger.

No. 32.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 466. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

I HAD long interview to-day with Grand Vizier and Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. They assured me most distinctly that no appeal of any kind will be made to Russia or any direct understanding come to with her without previous consultation with England, and until all hope of mediation or intervention on her part or on that of the other European Powers is gone. They are going to communicate to me, for submission to Her Majesty's Government, the terms of peace which they are ready to accept. No application, they state, has been made either to Italy or Germany for mediation. The matter has been only casually mentioned in conversation, when German Ambassador observed that he was quite ignorant of the conditions upon which Russia would consent to peace. Grand Vizier informs me that Mukhtar Pasha is confident of being able to hold his positions in front of Erzeroum, and that the reinforcements sent to him will reach him in a day or two. He admits that Plevna is invested, but hopes that communications with it will be re-established. He does not consider the position of affairs desperate; says that the country can carry on the struggle, and depends on the weather to impede the operations of the Russians. The quantity of provisions in Plevna is doubtful, but Grand Vizier thinks that it is sufficient for at least two months.

No. 33.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 467.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1877, 6·40 P.M.

KEMBALL telegraphs from Erzeroum, yesterday:—

"Situation unaltered; Moukhtar Pasha using every effort to reorganize troops and complete lines of defence of Deveh Boyun.

"Russians bringing up their forces, but have not made offensive movement. Column which was advancing to Olti has retired again."

No. 34.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 468. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 2, 1877, 1·40 P.M.

I AM informed that Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna has been instructed, by telegraph, to point out to Count Andrassy abuses committed in consequence of the permission granted by the Porte for the free navigation of the Danube above the mouth of the Timok, which the Porte had reserved to itself the right of withdrawing. It complains that, among other things, arms, ammunition, and wood for building purposes are brought in Servian bottoms to Servia, and immediately afterwards transferred to the other side of the river and delivered to the Russians and Roumanians. Count Andrassy is to be informed that orders have been given to the Turkish authorities to stop this traffic in arms; but these orders do not extend to other articles no less useful to the enemy. Turkish Chargé d'Affaires is to ask Count Andrassy his opinion, confidentially, on this matter, and to suggest that the Austro-Hungarian Government should itself take measures to put an end to this state of things, or that Porte should suspend temporarily the navigation of this part of the Danube.

No. 35.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 270. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 28, 1877.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant, I have the honour to report that the last of the Jewish refugees from Kyzanlik are now being passed into Turkey by the route of the Save, Trieste, &c.

The original number who took refuge in the Russian lines amounted to 500, but from want and misery they were reduced to 367 when they arrived in Wallachia.

Their wants were abundantly supplied by the opulent Jews at this place, and considerable sums were transmitted for their benefit by the Jewish community in Moldavia.

A question was raised whether the passports furnished to them by this Government would be recognized at the Austrian frontier. My Austrian colleague telegraphed to Pesth, and some delay occurring in receiving a reply, some of the principal Jews in Bucharest waited upon me to request me to give them British passports.

I replied that, without special instructions from your Lordship, I could not interfere in the matter, as it would create a precedent for British protection to Ottoman subjects in these Principalities, which would be fruitful of inconvenience, as well as being in distinct contradiction to our regulations in the matter of passports. I therefore suggested to the gentlemen in question to move M. Cogalniceano to telegraph to the Roumanian Agent at Vienna to obtain the necessary facilities from Count Andrassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 36.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 73. Political.)
Odessa, October 20, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 20th instant I sent off to Constantinople, by the brig "Aghios Nicholas," three Mussulmans, Ottoman subjects, named Megherditch Ogtou Setrak, Mustapha Ismail Oglou, and Hassan Ali.

These men have been imprisoned for seven months, three of which at Odessa, under order of deportation, no public accusation having however been made against them.

The "Aghios Nicholas" has loaded wheat at Nicolaief, ostensibly for Marseilles, but her captain undertook to land the men at Constantinople if I would send them to Ochakof, which I did; and in order that there might be no hitch, I instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Hunt to accompany them, and see them on board at Ochakof.

The Governor of Odessa paid 15 rs. towards their passage. I paid the balance and provided food for them, I also bought clothes for them. The total expenses incurred in their behalf; exclusive of 15 rs. paid by the Governor, amounted to 75 rs. 80 a., but as this was covered by a subscription raised among the English residents, no charge for this item will be made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 37.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 882. Confidential.)
Paris, November 2, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes observed to me yesterday that, although the Russians had not as yet achieved any striking victory in Bulgaria, they seem, nevertheless, since the arrival of General Todleben, to have been steadily acquiring a superiority over the Turks. This being the case, it was not, he thought, improbable that the Russian army might ere long obtain successes, which would on the one hand enable the Emperor to retire from the war with honour to his arms; and would, on the other hand, dispose the Porte to accept conditions of peace which could be admitted with credit by Russia.

At such a moment the mediation of Europe might, in the Duke's opinion, smooth the way to peace; but it was, he conceived, from Germany that the proposal for mediation ought to come. The Emperor Alexander would listen to terms proposed to him by his uncle, the Emperor William, which would have a very different appearance if they came from any other source, and especially if they came from England.

The success of the negotiation would, the Duke thought, depend upon its originating with Germany; and he considered that the conspicuous position which Germany now occupied in Europe conferred upon her the right to take the lead, and imposed upon her the duty of bearing the chief share of the burthen of mediation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 38.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 883.)
Paris, November 2, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes spoke to me very confidentially yesterday of information which had reached him as to designs stated to be entertained by many influential people in Italy. He had not received this information from official sources, and he did not vouch for its accuracy, but he seemed nevertheless to look upon it as worthy of consideration. He did not represent the present Italian Government as approving these designs; on the contrary, it appeared that, according to his informants, part of the plan for executing them was a change in some of the Departments of that Government, and especially a change in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The sum of the intelligence the Duke had received was that Italy hoped to obtain

Tunis and Albania for her share in the spoils of Turkey at the end of the war in the East, and that she aimed, moreover, at recovering Nice and other portions of the territory ceded to the Emperor Napoleon the Third in 1860.

Your Lordship is well aware that the French Government has long been very suspicious of Italian designs upon Tunis. The Duc Decazes mentioned to me yesterday that he had some time ago begged the Italians to consider whether it was to be expected that England would allow them to occupy Tunis so as to place Malta in a vice between Sicily and Italian territory in Africa. He adverted also to persistent endeavours which had, he said, been made to establish Italian families in a Tunisian island named Galita, near the frontier of Algeria, although the Bey had more than once taken measures for the removal of the intruders.

As regarded the territory acquired by France in 1860, it was, the Duke thought, evident that a very general desire to recover it existed in Italy. The only difference of opinion appeared to regard the means to be adopted for the purpose. There were, he said, two parties, the one hoped to obtain the restitution of this territory as the fruit of an alliance with Germany; the other as a recompense for services to be rendered to France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 39.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 469.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, November 2, 1877, 3:30 P.M.

KEMBALL telegraphs from Erzeroum yesterday:—

"Line of defence on the front and right flank of Deveh Boyun very well planned, and well armed with field-guns and artillery of position. Russians have reconnoitred and felt for road left flank; menaced points have been strengthened. Position can be defended if the men will stand. Moukhtar Pasha addressed brigades successively to-day with good effect. Retirement of Russian column from Olti supposed to be owing to offensive movement from Batoum. Kars invested; but all quiet. Plain north of Erzeroum has been flooded as far as possible."

No. 40.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, November 3, 1877, 4:15 P.M.

THE Porte is anxious to obtain, through Her Majesty's Government, from the Russian Government, permission for the Archimandrite Parthenios, accompanied by Fathers Dunanios and Yoanikios, and Deacon Kyprianos, to proceed to Taganrog as delegates from the Greek Patriarch at Jerusalem, for the purpose of administering the property which the Greek Patriarchate possesses in that town.

Endeavour to obtain this authorization, and telegraph answer, as it is of importance that these gentlemen should proceed to Taganrog with as little delay as possible.

No. 41.

Mr. Plunkett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 323. Most Confidential.)
Washington, October 23, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 189, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo, respecting a reported scheme for an American Protectorate over the Island of Crete, I have the honour to state that the Turkish Minister has been kind enough to allow me to read four despatches which he has sent to the Porte on the subject.

On the 22nd December last, Aristarchi Bey reported that he had just learnt that some Cretan Delegates had come over to America to interest the United States' Government in favour of their cause, but that he could not yet discover their names.

On the 6th March, he reported that the Delegates kept very quiet, and had probably

not been well received by the United States' Government, even if they had had any communication at all, which he seemed to be doubtful of.

On the 20th March, he reported that there turned out to be only one delegate, a Cretan merchant, who has a place of business in New York, and who had lately received, for communication to the United States' Government, a copy of an Address issued by the Cretans to the European Powers.

On the 10th August, the Turkish Minister reported in a confidential despatch that, after the refusal of Prince Ypsilanti to accept the offer made to him by the Cretan Insurrectionary Committee, they determined to sound the United States' Government with a view to inducing them to assume the protectorate of the island. The person, however, who was employed by the delegate to sound Mr. Evarts soon answered that it was useless for the Cretans to attempt a step destined to inevitable failure.

The above succinct summary would prove that nothing is likely to come of this proposal, and I cannot find that anything whatever is known about it, except by the Turkish Legation. A paragraph in one of Aristarchi Bey's despatches is so indicative of his appreciation of the tendencies of American diplomacy that I submit it herewith for your Lordship's perusal :—

"Je crois du reste que plus le Gouvernement Américain constate que les excursions de sa politique dans le domaine Oriental et l'immixtion de ses Agents nous froissent, et plus il se montre circonspect et désireux d'éviter des malentendus."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 42.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 470.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 4, 1877, 10·40 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 1st instant, Consul Zohrab telegraphs as follows :—

"Buckley was convalescent and with Casson at Kars, 17th October. Kars being invested, no intelligence comes. Shall try to communicate and telegraph results."

No. 43.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 471.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 4, 1877.*

KEMBALL telegraphs yesterday from Erzeroum :—

"Russians still inactive, though continually reconnoitring; and Moukhtar Pasha improving the opportunity to complete line of defence and strengthen position. 3,000 stragglers and fugitives have rejoined colours. Two battalions are expected to arrive from Trebizond to-morrow. Force on Deveh Boyun about 20,000, with 8 guns of position, 63 field-pieces, and 17 mountain-guns. Every day delay increases chance of successful defence.

"Kars has refused to surrender. Russians too few to attack, but have raised one breaching battery. Russians occupied Bayazid before the arrival of Turkish detachment going to Barghir, in the direction of Van.

No. 44.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic) *Tunis, November 4, 1877, 2·50 P.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 44, I have the honour to state that the Bey informed (me ?) that he will select and send to Constantinople 4,000 troops and a field-battery, in compliance with the requisition of the Porte.

No. 45.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 69. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, October 24, 1877.*

I REGRET to have to report that since the proclamation here of the state of siege the authorities have had recourse to most arbitrary and ill-advised proceedings, with a view, as they pretend, to guard against any disturbance or commotion. Ignorant and unscrupulous men are employed as spies, who, to show that they are not idle, bring frivolous charges against harmless individuals, and several arrests have been made lately of the most respectable and inoffensive Christian merchants of this town.

The Sandjak of Serajevo has been perfectly tranquil during the whole period of the insurrection in Bosnia; the Christians of this town have even been upbraided by sympathizers with the revolt with their pusillanimity and want of patriotism in not having aided the movement with either men or money, and the substitution of martial for civil law now at the eleventh hour seems to be a needless irritation to peaceable townspeople. It would be most regrettable should any want of tact on the part of the authorities bring about an emigration of the Christian merchants of Serajevo similar to what has occurred in other parts of the province.

Unfortunately, the present military commander in Bosnia, Vely Pasha, is a man of neither capacity nor tact, and the military council which has replaced the criminal tribunal cannot certainly boast of any very gifted members. It is reported, however, that the Mushir Mehmet Ali Pasha has been named Commander-in-chief of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and a better state of affairs may perhaps be looked for under his enlightened supervision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 46.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 70. Consular.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, October 25, 1877.*

A FEW days since, during a conversation with the Governor-General, Mahzar Pasha, his Excellency informed me that he had received several telegrams from the Mütessarif of Bihac and other officials regarding the proceedings of Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper on the frontier. They accused that gentleman of having visited the insurgents, of having distributed among them a sum of 300 florins, and of having told them that they would receive clothes from England. They also said that Mr. Cooper made drawings of all the fortifications he passed, and maps of the districts through which he travelled. I was quite sure that these reports were only a misrepresentation, by ignorant or over-zealous employés, of Mr. Cooper's actions, and I did not hesitate to state my opinion freely to his Excellency, but at the same time I requested that, if he had any cause of complaint against Mr. Cooper, he would inform me so officially. This, however, he refused to do, and I should have hardly considered the matter worth reporting to your Lordship had I not foreseen that Mahzar Pasha would probably bring it to the notice of the Porte.

To-day I have received a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, dated the 18th instant, copy of which I inclose herein, which throws some light on this matter, and gives an outline of that gentleman's proceedings since he left Banjaluka. I think your Lordship will agree with me that no possible exception can be taken to his conduct, but it is possible that his ignorance of the languages of the country may have been the cause of some misunderstandings.

I received, some time since, from Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, an Imperial Firman recognizing Mr. Harry Cooper as British Vice-Consul in Bosnia acting under my orders. Owing to the Turkish fête of Bairam, there was unavoidable delay in having this Firman read and registered according to usage, and Mr. Cooper had consequently left Banjaluka for Bihac before I could forward it to him. The Governor-General maintains that even this Firman does not authorize Mr. Cooper to travel about the country; but I told his Excellency that the foreign Representatives residing in this town were not merely Consuls at Serajevo, but Consuls for the whole of Bosnia, and that I

considered that the authorities had no right either to hinder our proceeding to any part of our Consular district or to object to our residing in any part of the Province we chose, and that, therefore, the same privilege must be granted to Mr. Cooper as Vice-Consul in Bosnia acting under my orders. His Excellency consulted the Cadi on the subject, who pretended that the Consuls were only here for the protection of the interests and the subjects of their respective countries, and had no right to travel except for such purpose; but I informed him that as, with the exception of Austria, none of the European Powers had any direct interests to defend or any subjects to protect in this province, it must be well known to the Porte that the Consulates here are political posts, and that any restriction on our movements to obtain the information which we consider it our duty to furnish to our respective Governments would entirely annul the advantages of holding an Imperial Firman. I trust that your Lordship will approve my language on this occasion.

Hitherto, during the many years I have resided in Bosnia, whether travelling privately or on the public service, I have ever received the greatest attention from the local authorities throughout the province, both civil and military, more especially this spring, when I was charged to inquire into certain alleged Turkish atrocities, but latterly a system of espionage seems to have been established, and everybody's movements, be he an official or a private individual, foreigner or native, are watched and suspected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Bihac, Bosnia, October 18, 1877.

Sir,

IN accordance with orders to visit Bihac, I left Banjaluka on the morning of the 11th October, and travelling viâ Prjedor, reached Novi on the evening of the 12th. Here I remained till the morning of the 15th, when, continuing my journey, I reached Bihac on the evening of the 16th, and was directly given rooms in the Konak.

Before starting, the Mutessarif of Banjaluka provided me with a letter of introduction to the Mutessarif of Bihac, and gave orders for the necessary escort. Nothing could have exceeded the courtesy of the Turkish officials *en route*, and I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of bringing to your notice the civility with which both military and civilian authorities have aided me on the journey.

The country from Banjaluka to Bihac, except round the towns and in one or two other districts, is deserted; at Novi, the inhabitants are in constant fear of attack from a band of insurgents assembled near Topola, elsewhere there seems no active hostility against the Government, though bands of robbers are reported to be seen at times on all the roads.

I am drawing up a detailed report on state of affairs, which I will forward as soon as completed.

Since writing the above, I have had an interview with the Mutessarif, and from what passed, have announced my intention of leaving Bihac to-morrow.

Abdul Hamid, a British subject residing at Banjaluka, had given me two letters referring to unsettled claims against the Government and some residents in sandjak of Bihac. On arrival here on the night of the 16th, I had announced that I had come with a view of inquiring into these claims.

Yesterday, on my official visit to the Mutessarif, I stated the contents of the letters, and the Mutessarif informed me that, though recognizing me as English Vice-Consul, he could not recognize Abdul Hamid as a British subject without orders from Bosna-Serai.

It was accordingly arranged to wait for instructions from Bosna-Serai, which were telegraphed for. I took leave of the Mutessarif, stating that I was going to Zavalje, the nearest Austrian post village; no objection was made to my going, nor was an escort offered.

I walked to Zavalje alone, and returned in the afternoon. In the evening I dined with the Mutessarif, and spoke of my day's excursion, also informing him that this morning I intended visiting a neighbouring ruin, on which the Mutessarif made some casual remarks about robbers.

Early this morning, whilst my room was being cleaned, I walked about the old walls, which I was warned off, and then down to the broken bridge, but never went more than

100 yards from the Konak. I then waited in till noon, when hearing that the Mutessarif had not yet come to his office, I thought I had better go for a ride, and should find the Mutessarif on my return.

Accompanied by my cavass I rode to Sokolac, where I made a sketch of the ruined castle, and returned to Bihac.

As I cannot speak Turkish, I am dependent on a German doctor (Ahmet Effendi), who kindly does interpreter. The doctor called during the afternoon, and I wanted to see the Mutessarif at once, but, hearing that he was engaged, started to call on the officer commanding the troops. On the way the doctor was sent for, and a few minutes afterwards I was informed the Mutessarif was disengaged.

After the usual salutations on entry, the Mutessarif stated that my wanderings about were exciting the people, and that in the present disturbed state of affairs he could not be responsible for my safety unless I was always escorted. I expressed regret that I should have caused him any alarm, and promised in future that I would not go about unattended. The Mutessarif then went on to say that the matter of Abdul Hamid could not be entertained in the absence of instructions from Bosna-Serai, and that I had arrived without either firman or being previously announced.

From the manner in which I was informed of this, I immediately concluded that my presence in Bihac was not agreeable to the authorities, and announced my willingness to withdraw by any route the Mutessarif might suggest. It was accordingly decided that I should depart by Krupa, remain at Dvor, and thence either go straight to Banjaluka or make a detour by Kostainica and Dubica.

The Mutessarif privately has been a most capital host, but he evidently considers my arrival irregular, and, sooner than remain here under suspicion, I am anxious to leave to-morrow.

I gave out that I came to inquire into the affairs of Abdul Hamid, but stated that I was making inquiries about passing events, and have asked all manner of questions about the insurrection, which have been readily answered. Yesterday, before introducing the subject of Abdul Hamid's claims, I distinctly requested to know whether I was received as the English Vice-Consul, and was answered in the affirmative; what may have since led to the changes in the Mutessarif's opinion I am unable to state. But I beg to request that, if I am to remain as Vice-Consul in Bosnia, it may be pointed out to the Vali that my appointment should be announced to the different local authorities.

From Banjaluka I had been provided with a letter of introduction, and I travelled with escort, so that my position could scarcely be doubtful.

I trust that, though my visit to Bihac has been a failure as far as Consular duties are concerned, that the information I have collected may be of some use in giving a correct idea as to the insurrection in North-West Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 47.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby. (*Received November* 5.)

(No. 818. Most Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, October 30, 1877.

My Lord,

I TOOK an opportunity to-day of speaking to Count Andrassy of Count Beust's language to your Lordship on the subject of the Oriental question, referred to in your despatch No. 328 of the 15th instant, marked Most Confidential, with which I said you had been good enough to acquaint me confidentially, without giving me instructions to make any observations on it to his Excellency.

There were, however, one or two points in Count Beust's observations which I did not quite understand, and on which I said I should be glad to receive explanations from him. Count Beust, for instance, had stated that the policy of Austria-Hungary would be directed, in the event of the war continuing favourable to Turkey, to maintaining the control of the European Powers over the Porte, which had been established by the Treaty of Paris; but, as Count Beust had only spoken generally of his Excellency's views on the subject, they appeared to me to require some further explanation. He answered that I was in error if I supposed that he considered the Treaty of Paris had granted any new right of interference in the affairs of Turkey to the European Powers, as it had merely stipulated, in admitting the Ottoman Empire within the circle of European States, that no Power should interfere singly in its affairs, a stipulation which, he considered, ought to be

maintained, and he also thought that the Turks, should they ultimately be victorious, which he did not expect, should not be permitted to abolish the Capitulations or abrogate any engagements which they had entered into in favour of the Christians. As I then said that your Lordship had asked Count Beust whether he could state what his Excellency's views were for the contingency of a collapse of the Turkish defence, and that you did not appear to have received an answer to the question, he observed, in reply, that it did not require one, as a clear understanding on that point had already been come to between the Governments. He subsequently went on to say that the Emperor Alexander may possibly wish for peace if he takes Plevna, but, if so, unless His Majesty expresses that desire spontaneously, the failure of his programme will be attributed in Russia to the uncalled for interference of the Power which may offer its mediation; but if he does not wish to make peace till he has completely subdued Turkey, he will find ultimately that he cannot settle the questions at issue without the co-operation of the other European Powers, and that he could not even count upon the goodwill of the Bulgarians to facilitate the arrangements which he might wish to make for that purpose, an opinion, in support of which his Excellency said, that the population at Toultcha had lately refused to celebrate the Emperor's fête day, and that the shops had been closed on the occasion by the Russian military police.

His Excellency avoided expressing any opinion as to the manner in which the action of the neutral Powers may eventually be called into operation; but he observed that, if great Russian successes should occur, which is improbable, and Turkey should be obliged to accept any terms of peace which might be imposed on her, the questions at issue would not be settled, and the intervention of Europe would be found necessary to establish a permanent and satisfactory arrangement.

Your Lordship will probably consider, from his Excellency's observations, that he leaves a large margin in his anticipations as to the future to the influence of accidents, and that while he is unwilling that certain changes should result from the war, it is not quite clear what he expects it to lead to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 48.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 403. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 3, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation from the "Berliner Tageblatt" giving the bases upon which your Lordship is reported to have proposed mediation to the Porte, and also a précis of various articles which have appeared in the semi-official press relative to the opportuneness of such a proposal under existing circumstances.

The only value of these extracts is in the deprecatory tone in which the subject appears to be treated, which is in itself sufficiently important as denoting the opinion generally entertained on the subject by those who control the Press Bureau, and perhaps as indicative of the manner in which any proposal for mediation is likely to be received here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Précis of Newspaper Articles on reported endeavour to open Peace Negotiations by England.

A TELEGRAM was published in the "Politische Correspondenz" last week from London saying that Mr. Layard had, at the Sultan's request, asked Lord Derby to support immediate peace negotiations, and that England had promised to mediate if the proposal were favourably received by Russia.

Commenting on this the "National Zeitung" of the 28th October credits the report with having at any rate a foundation of truth, since it is greatly in the interest of both England and Turkey to make peace at the present moment.

The Porte has, the "National Zeitung" says, already done enough to dissipate the notion of her want of vitality, and to make it possible to conclude the war, as far as she

is concerned, with a return to the *status quo ante*. That England should wish to act as mediator is natural enough, as she is the only Power which plays practically an indirectly active part in the war. Whether the accusations of Russia that Great Britain has transgressed the bounds of neutrality be true or false, it is not to be contested that she is able to control the sources from which Turkey and her adversary both draw, and that she uses this power in favour of the former and to the detriment of the latter.

The attitude of England with regard to Turkey's neighbours is, however, more important still, and the action of Egypt and Tunis, Greece and Servia, is more or less attributable to her influence.

Thus, the "National Zeitung" observes, England holds and widely makes use of strong arguments to induce Russia to favour peace negotiations. In the present state of affairs, however, peace could only be the ratification of Russia's defeat. Even if the Porte were brought by England to demand no cession of territory from her adversary, if, moreover, she would leave Roumania and Servia in the same position as they obtained by the Treaty of 1856, if even she increased the territory of Montenegro, if she gave new guarantees for the better treatment of her Christian subjects, it would yet be the humiliation of Russia. It would destroy for years the position of the latter Power in Europe, and as this question has the greatest significance for Russia just now, the "National Zeitung" is of opinion, looking at the matter from the point of view of the Russian Government, that mediation is at present impossible.

The "Preussische Kreuz Zeitung" in its issue of Tuesday, the 30th October, publishes an article, dated Vienna, on the same subject, in which it remarks that it is not necessary to think that England wishes to outmanœuvre the triple alliance and put it in the background in order to believe in her desire for peace; but it must be doubted that the other Great Powers would be ready, as long as Russia shows no greater inclination to meet such advances, to engage in what is at least a very problematical attempt at mediation, the more so when it is not a question of taking an initiative, but one of supporting that of a foreign Government.

It is especially impossible to be deceived as to the decided views of the Berlin Cabinet, and it cannot be supposed that an independent step will be taken in Vienna which would be unwelcome to either of the two other parties to the triple alliance.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

Extract from Article in the "Berliner Tageblatt" on Mediation.

(Translation.)

THE Cabinet of St. James's has laid before the Sublime Porte, in the form of a verbal note, a project which, if the propositions contained therein should be accepted by the latter Government, may serve as a basis of mediation between the two belligerents.

The principal propositions are to the following effect:—

"In consideration:—

"That the Government of the Sublime Porte has refused to recognize the right of international control by a Commission to be composed of the Signatory Powers, which, according to the decision of the Conference, should have its permanent session at Constantinople, and also to allow the appointment or recognition of Christian Governors in Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, as an interference in the domestic affairs of the country incompatible with the sovereignty of a nation, the Great Powers, and more especially Russia, give up these two points insisted on at the Conference.

"On the other hand, the Sublime Porte is bound, within a fixed time, to bring all the other stipulations of the resolutions of the Conference into harmony with the Constitution promulgated last year, and to extend them so that a system of local or administrative autonomy shall be granted to Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria. By this term is understood a system which permits the populations of these provinces to exercise a control over their own local authorities, and at the same time an arbitrating jurisdiction as a guarantee against unlawful acts.

"There is no question of the formation of independent tributary States.

"The details respecting this arrangement of the provinces can be discussed later on."

No. 49.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 472. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 5, 1877, 9·45 P.M.*

I HAVE seen Grand Vizier and Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs again to-day. They say that the Sultan would be willing to make peace on following conditions:—

1. The Treaty of Paris to be accepted as a basis.

2. All the concessions made at the Conference and reforms referred to in the London Protocol to be adhered to by the Porte.

3. Servia to be left as before the war, with a modification of the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Paris, which renders it necessary for the Porte to come to a previous understanding with the Signatory Powers before having recourse to armed intervention.

4. The *status quo ante* as regards Montenegro. The Porte might agree to a rectification of the frontier, but as at present advised would not consent to surrender Nichsich.

5. The Bessarabian territory ceded by Russia to be restored, but means to be found to prevent Russian and Turkish provinces being conterminous.

6. Sultan would be disposed to surrender suzerainty over Roumania to Austria-Hungary; the surrendered territory to be annexed to Hungary. Austria on the other hand to consent to the unrestricted use by Turkey of the port of Klek. In addition to these conditions the Sultan might undertake to carry out the proposed reforms within ten years, and to repeat publicl yand solemnly his determination to abide by the Constitution.

The Grand Vizier further intimates that Batoum might be declared a free port and be connected by a branch line with the Russian railway at Poti, which would give Russia all the commercial advantages that Russia can require. His Highness undertakes, if the Cretans will send a joint Commission of Mussulmans and Christians to Constantinople, to make such modifications in the Organic Law as will satisfy them. His Highness is not unfavourable to a Mixed Commission being appointed to inquire into and report upon the reforms needed in Bulgaria, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, provided that the foreign members on it should be named by the Porte. His Highness wishes it to be understood that these conditions are not yet laid formally or officially before Her Majesty's Government. If Her Majesty's Government consider them sufficient and satisfactory, and would advise their adoption by Russia, they would be communicated officially after receiving the approval of the Council of Ministers, which has not yet been consulted, as the matter is altogether secret. The draft of a Proclamation to the Bulgarians is being prepared, and the Grand Vizier assures me that there will be no more executions except in exceptional cases.

No. 50.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 473.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 5, 1877, 10 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from General Kemball, dated Erzeroum, yesterday:—

"Russians attacked to-day; Turks made a feeble resistance, and soon retired without fighting. Position lost and Erzeroum. Shall go immediately to Baiburt with party."

No. 51.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 474.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 6, 1877.*

THE "Cockatrice" has arrived here, with orders to join Admiral at Besika, probably with a view to go to Malta. Would it be desirable to retain her here, in view of the proposed arrangements at Suliua? If so, would you communicate with Admiralty, as she is in want of repairs.

No. 52.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, 6·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 5, 1877, 5·14 P.M.*

FOLLOWING has been received from Consul at Königsberg to-day:—

"About thirty railway waggons crossed border with gunpowder for Russian army on 30th October, under charge of German artillerymen. Commander, German officer commanding the Artillery from Rhine."

No. 53.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6, 7·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, November 6, 1877, 2 P.M.*

DR. CASSON says that there are (no?) provisions in Kars, but can he be believed? 6,000 soldiers marched lately from this side to Erzeroum to support Heymann. November 6.

No. 54.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 475.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 6, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Zohrab, dated yesterday evening:—

"General telegraphed yesterday total rout. Russians took up to-day position south of Erzeroum. Inhabitants demand surrender of town. Moukhtar Pasha wishes to defend. No decision made yet. Soldiers utterly worn out, demoralized, and hungry; will, I am sure, refuse to face an attack. Resistance will only cause useless bloodshed.

"Moukhtar Pasha and Ismail Pasha came in during the night. Fearful panic in the town during past night, but no violence was committed. Bad weather.

"General and staff left for Baiburt last night."

No. 55.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 7, 1877.*

M. GIERS has transmitted inquiry concerning English captured at Telish to headquarters. He states that the Doctors have been instructed to attend to Turkish wounded. I have represented Captain Coope as a non-combatant, and therefore entitled to same privileges as Doctors under Geneva Convention.

No. 56.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 689.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1877.*

YOUR despatch No. 1238 of the 31st ultimo has been received, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the advice which you gave to Server Pasha, impressing upon him how important it is that the Porte should pursue a conciliatory policy towards Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 57.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 691.)

Foreign Office, November 7, 1877.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction, from your despatch No. 1255 of the 24th ultimo, that, in consequence of the representations which your Excellency has made to the Grand Vizier and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, a Vizirial Order has been sent by telegraph to the Valis of Adrianople, of the Danube, of Kossova, of Salonica, and of Janina, directing them to instruct the authorities in their respective vilayets to protect and defend the Bulgarian Protestants.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 58.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 89.)

Foreign Office, November 7, 1877.

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 276 of the 25th ultimo has been received, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the note which, in compliance with the instructions conveyed to you in my despatch No. 80 of the 12th of October, you have addressed to the Greek Government, explaining the motives which prompted the recent communications made to them through you as regards their policy towards the Porte.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 59.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 66. Political.)

Canea, Crete, October 27, 1877.

My Lord,

THE state of affairs in Crete has in some respects improved, while in other respects things are going from bad to worse. The most encouraging fact is the certainty that the peace of the island will not be disturbed for the present; and next in importance is the return to their homes of the Mussulman peasants who had sought refuge with their families in this town and neighbourhood. The autumnal sowing season having come round, the fugitives saw that unless they tilled their fields there was no prospect of subsistence for them next year, and they accordingly returned, and found, as the Pasha himself informed me last week, the homes which they had deserted just as they left them, their Christian neighbours having committed no sort of damage whatever. This should convince them that the evil designs attributed to the Christians had no foundation; and indeed it is well known that their flight was instigated by a handful of intriguing Mussulmans in Canea, who are the bane of the island.

On the other hand, the Committee of Christian malcontents, who had begun their agitation nearly three months ago, persist in their determination not to disperse, and are assembled to the number of about twenty, in an inaccessible mountain gorge on the borders of Sphakia, where they are secure from surprize. The Government seems resigned to their presence there, and wisely ignores their existence. As they are careful, were it only as a matter of policy, not to transgress the law, little is heard of their doings, and being out of sight, they are also out of mind.

The state of public administration is very far from satisfactory, and is going from bad to worse. Murders and robberies are greatly on the increase; nor can it be wondered at when the guardians of the peace are unpaid, wretchedly fed, and hence profoundly dissatisfied. Three days ago two men were found in a field just outside this town with their hands tied behind their backs and their throats cut, but the murderers as usual cannot be found, and events such as this cause less sensation than formerly. As an example of the weakness of the Government, I may mention that a Chief of Gendarmes to whom was entrusted the police of a large district in this neighbourhood has deserted his post and taken refuge in town, being in fear of his life. This man is a Christian who, having rendered himself obnoxious to his countrymen by taking part against them in the last insurrection, was rewarded for his services by the important post he has just deserted. The Government is seeing its authority slipping through its fingers, and though the forces at its disposal, viz., 12,000 regular troops and 2,500 zaptiehs, are sufficient to overawe the people, the great expense attendant on the feeding and clothing of this unproductive population is in itself a source of no little anxiety.

A call has been made on the inhabitants of Crete to furnish winter clothing for the Sultan's troops in Rumelia, the quota demanded of them being 10,000 quilted jackets, woollen socks, and cotton sashes. The call has been fairly responded to by the Moslems, but with less alacrity by the Christians. No attempt has been made to obtain contributions from the peasantry, who are pretty well emancipated from Government authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 60.

Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 12. Political. Confidential.)

Ragusa, October 30, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Princess of Montenegro embarked on the 22nd instant on board an Austrian man-of-war at Cattaro and left for Italy, where Her Highness, owing to a severe attack of rheumatism, intends to pass the winter.

No events of any political importance have occurred in Dalmatia since my arrival, but it may interest your Lordship to know that the Panslavistic proclivities, so much encouraged by Russian agents continually arriving in these parts, are on the ascendant, and that their existence is from time to time manifested by acts which, though trivial in themselves, plainly show the drift of the political current in Southern Dalmatia, that is to say, from Spalato to Cattaro.

Your Lordship is aware of the existence here of two political parties, the so-called autonomists and the nationalists.

The former, professing allegiance to the present dynasty—with considerable partiality for everything Italian—is made up by nearly the whole of the Roman Catholic population, among whom may be counted the well-to-do classes, such as the landed proprietors of Venetian descent and the aristocracy, of which members of the same family have been so carried away by political animosity as not to be on speaking terms with each other. Whilst the latter, professing Panslavism to its fullest extent, look forward to a speedy deliverance from what they are pleased to call the Austrian yoke. They are composed mostly of Slavs, and form a large majority.

Though General Rodich, the Governor of Dalmatia, a Slav by birth, is still entrusted with the administration of this province, and his appointment deemed appropriate—probably with the view to allaying Panslavistic susceptibilities, and thereby rendering the Government popular—all the regiments quartered in Southern Dalmatia come from Hungary and the German provinces, and are commanded by General von Poppenheim, whose anti-Slavonic proclivities are well known, and render him anything but popular.

General Poppenheim, I have been informed, accepted his present command at the express desire of the Emperor. He is a thorough soldier and sincerely devoted to his Imperial master.

It has often struck me that his appointment here was intended as a sort of safety-valve in the event of his chief, General Rodich, not fulfilling what might be expected from him should at any time the integrity of this portion of the Austrian Empire be menaced.

My suspicions on this point have been confirmed by a speech, at which I was present, recently held by General Poppenheim to his officers, in which he solemnly enjoined them to look to the Emperor only as their earthly master.

My Consular duties having a few weeks back necessitated my presence at Cattaro, where I spent a few hours, I had ample opportunities while there to satisfy myself with regard to the reputed existence of Panslavism in that town. The Servian flag I saw defiantly hoisted above the Austrian, and among the natives wearing the national dress the Prince of Montenegro's initials were invariably embroidered on their caps.

Persons holding opposite views assured me that every day the town was becoming more intolerable for Roman Catholics, and autonomists in general, and that before long—more especially should the Russians during the present war be victorious—Southern

Dalmatia would fall into the hands of the Montenegrins, who would then establish their capital at Cattaro, if not at Ragusa.

Such a contingency is naturally favourably looked upon by Russia, who, in the event of its coming to pass, would have the Bocche di Cattaro, one of the finest harbours in the world, in the hands of an ally whom she had all along befriended in time of trouble, and who would be ever ready to offer her shelter in return for past services.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 61.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 822.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 5, 1877.*

THE recent detention by the Hungarian authorities of rails for Roumania as contraband of war having been reported in the English press, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship with the circumstances as they have been explained to me by Count Andrassy.

The rails in question were forwarded from Austria, and as they ought to have passed a bridge at which tolls are levied near the Roumanian frontier, the waggons took bye roads to avoid the payment of the tolls, which the toll-collecter having discovered, he reported the incident to the local authorities, who attributed the attempt to pass without being noticed to the rails being contraband of war, as intended for the construction of the military railways ordered by Russia.

The contractor appealed for protection to the Austrian authorities, and the question having been brought before the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, it was decided that the export of rails is not illegal, and the order to detain them was withdrawn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 62.

M. Petrococchino to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)

My Lord, 29, *Finsbury Circus, November 7, 1877.*

I TAKE the liberty, as temporary Chairman of the Black Sea Blockade Committee, to remind your Lordship of an interview that was courteously granted some months since to a deputation representing that Committee. Subsequently Mr. Pembroke and I had the honour of an unofficial interview with Lord Tenterden.

After having discussed the question fully, we left several particulars with Lord Tenterden, who, however, requested us to address further written communications to your Lordship.

In pursuance of this recommendation, I beg to wait upon your Lordship with the following statement of facts:—

In the first place I have to inform your Lordship that, the so-called blockade notwithstanding, the following vessels have actually laden at Nicolaieff and other ports recently, for Constantinople and elsewhere:—

From Nicolaieff the great ships:—

"Olga," Captain Mangianico, with 3,600 chetverts of corn, sailed October $\frac{19}{31}$, 1877.

"Alexandre," Captain Frelara, with 2,800 chetverts of corn, sailed October $\frac{19}{31}$, 1877.

"Aghios Charalambov," Captain Jorrebaso, with 1,800 chetverts of corn, sailed October $\frac{20}{31}$, 1877.

"Aghios Nicolaso," Captain Zalanghiri, with 3,600 chetverts of corn, sailed October $\frac{14}{26}$, 1877.

"Nea Lora," Captain A. Moscow, with 2,800 chetverts of corn, sailed October $\frac{25}{6}$, 1877.

"Analypois," Captain Mariosis, with 1,800 chetverts of corn, still loading.

At Berdianska the following vessels are loading:—

"Clotilde," Italian flag, Captain Della Casa, for Messrs. Vagliano Brothers, of Rostoff on Don.

"Britannia," Italian flag, Captain Gianini, for Messrs. Vagliano Brothers, of Rostoff on Don.

"Elias," Greek flag, Captain Caticas, for M. Negroponte, of Taganrog.

At Marianople:—

"Angelica," Greek flag, Captain Giannelli, for M. Negroponte, of Taganrog.

We learn furthermore by several communications received by mercantile houses in this city:—

That the Turkish authorities have permitted all vessels which entered Russian ports before the declaration of blockade to load and clear, but as a fact all those ships then in Russian ports had left long since with their cargoes on board;

That ships arrived from Taganrog furnished with a pass or permit from the Turkish authorities after discharging cargo at Constantinople, sailed again for Taganrog, making use of the self-same pass or permit;

That several charters of vessels to load in the blockaded ports of Russia have been, and are still being, effected at Constantinople and in Mediterranean ports;

That it appears that the Turkish Government will not interfere with such ships provided their cargoes be sold in Constantinople.

Your Lordship will readily understand that I cannot submit further detail, for the information our Committee receives is naturally not afforded by those who are engaged in these transactions; yet there is no doubt of the correctness of our facts, and your Lordship will have no difficulty in having them verified by Her Majesty's Britannic Consular Agents in the Black Sea and at Constantinople.

The Chambers of Commerce in Italy and France are agitating the question on the assumption that there exists no effective blockade as required by the Declaration of Paris, and that the seizure of any vessel or cargo of lawful merchandise at Constantinople without such an effective blockade would be in every respect illegal.

In submitting these considerations to your Lordship, our Committee would feel much indebted if your Lordship would favour us with an opinion on this point; and if your Lordship should agree with us that so many vessels loading constitute final proof that the blockade is illegal, I am instructed to urge that your Lordship's good offices should be used at Constantinople in concert with other Governments, to induce the Turkish Government either to make the blockade effective and impartial, or, if it cannot do so, or find it inconvenient to do so, then to urge it to withdraw the notification of blockade altogether.

I would observe also that the question is being seriously considered by the shipowners and merchants of this country, who, from the facts daily coming to their notice, are convinced that there exists no real or effective blockade whatever, and they are naturally desirous that their business operations should not be any longer prevented by a mere paper blockade.

It is needless for me to remind your Lordship that this blockade, though ineffective, entails heavy and serious losses on this country, its effect being to maintain prices of breadstuffs at a much higher level than if there were no blockade, causing a needlessly large expenditure for other foreign grain. Enormous losses are also accruing to the steamship owners of this country through the non-employment of the large fleet of vessels built at heavy cost for this special trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. P. PETROCOCHINO.

No. 63.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 8, 1877.*

OFFICIAL telegram from Caucasus army dated Kurum Dam, November 6, states united corps Heimann-Tergukasoff defeated day before yesterday Mukhtar and Ismail Pashas in fortified position Deve Boyun. Turks fled in disorder, abandoning camp, cannon, and prisoners.

No. 64.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1877, 4·20 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government are informed that the following Greek vessels: "Neo Sona," "Olga," "Aghios Nicholas," "Alexandros," "Aghios Charalambos," have loaded cargoes of wheat at Nicolaieff.

Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at that place has been applied to, in his capacity of Protector of Turkish interests, for bills of health for these vessels, and has issued them.

The captains assured the Vice-Consul that they had made *bonâ fide* Charter parties with M. Semeriotti, agent of M. Zarifi, of Constantinople, to convey their cargoes of wheat to the Mediterranean.

Bills of lading have been made out in the usual form.

I am further informed that a legal document was drawn up by the charterer at the Greek Vice-Consulate and a copy given to each captain, guaranteeing him against all risks and responsibility in case of capture by the Turks.

Intimate at once to the Porte that if the five Greek vessels above-named are allowed (with or without passes and whatever their destination may be) to proceed on their voyages, Her Majesty's Government will no longer consider the blockade valid *quoad* Nicolaieff.

No. 65.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1877, 4·40 P.M.

WITH reference to my other telegram of this day, a despatch from Consul Stanley of the 29th ultimo reports that the "Aghios Nicholas" has sailed from Nicolaieff.

She had on board three destitute Mussulmans, and Vice-Consul Hunt saw them off on the 20th ultimo. She was loaded with wheat, ostensibly for Marseilles.

No. 66.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1877, 4·45 P.M.

LORD A. LOFTUS telegraphs that inquiry as to whereabouts of Englishmen captured at Telish has been forwarded to Russian head-quarters. He is informed that doctors have been instructed to attend to the Turkish wounded. Has represented Captain Coope as a non-combatant, and therefore entitled to same privileges as doctors under Geneva Convention.

No. 67.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 704.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1877.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa,[a] forwarding a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Wugstaff, detailing the circumstances under which five Greek vessels had loaded cargoes of wheat at Nicolaieff. I have to state to your Excellency that I have considered this despatch in communication with the Law Officers of the Crown, and I have now to instruct you at once to intimate to the Turkish Government that if the five Greek vessels named in Mr. Wugstaff's despatch are allowed (with or without passes, and whatever their destination may be) to proceed on their voyages, Her Majesty's Government will no longer consider the blockade valid *quoad* Nicolaieff.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] No. 72, Political, October 27 (qy. not given)

No. 68.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 707.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 704 of this day's date, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa,[a] from which you will perceive that the "Aghios Nicholas" has sailed from Nicolaieff.

It is stated that she was loaded with wheat ostensibly for Marseilles, and had on board three destitute Mussulmans whom Mr. Vice-Consul E. Jones accompanied to Ochakof, where he shipped them on the 20th ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 69.

Consul Carruthers to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 46.)

My Lord, *Taganrog, November* 1, 1877.

SINCE the despatch I had the honour to address your Lordship, under date the 17th September last, No. 40, reporting the departure from this port of the Greek vessel "Panaja Maltiza," laden with wheat, one other Greek ship, called "Angelle," has arrived here from abroad, and several vessels under the same flag have cleared out, the details of which are exposed in the note I take leave to transmit herewith.

Although the above-named ship "Angelle" took out her clearance here in ballast, it is believed by merchants with whom I have spoken on the subject that she will load cargo at some other port before leaving the Azoff. This appears the more probable, as I have trustworthy information that about 12,000 chetwerts of wheat have been sent hence by lighters to Kertch within the last ten days, for the purpose of being transshipped at that place on board vessels destined for abroad. M. Negroponte is the merchant here by whom the said produce was sent off, for account, as I am given to understand, of M. Zarify, of Constantinople.

Having this instant received from Mr. Vice-Consul Lowe a list of all foreign shipping that have landed at and sailed from that port since the blockade commenced, I beg leave to inclose the same. I understood that all the vessels named therein were shut in, and have until recently remained at Berdiansk in consequence of the blockade.

It is evident that a much larger quantity of wheat than loaded off here for abroad has been shipped at other places of the Azoff, and the number of vessels that have ventured into the Black Sea has given rise to the belief that some understanding relative to their free passage must exist with the Ottoman authorities, although such a supposition is at variance with the assurance given to Mr. Layard, as conveyed in your Lordship's telegram of the 24th September last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. CARRUTHERS.

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[a] No. 36.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

List of Ships loaded at Berdiansk since the commencement of Blockade, May 17, 1877.

Flag.	Name of Vessel.	Name of Master.	Quantity of Wheat.	Destination.	Loaded by
			Chetwerts.		
Greek ..	Aspasia	Yorge Vagliano .	1,800	Corfu ..	Vagliano.
,, ..	Artemis	Geneumis ..	3,000	Marseilles ..	Cuppa and Anhanopulo.
Italian ..	Britannia	Onoto	4,300	,, ..	Vagliano.
,, ..	Matilda Bellagamba ..	Dellacasa ..	1,000	,, ..	,,
Greek ..	Elin	Katika	3,600	,, ..	Negroponti.
Turkish ..	Panaghia Magazinitisa ..	Panagoti	700	Syra ..	Vagliano.

(Signed) H. R. LOWE, *Vice-Consul.*

Berdiansk, October 31, 1877.

N.B.—The four last-named ships cleared out near the end of October; the "Artemis" in the earlier part of the month.—J. P. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Note of Foreign Shipping Entered and Cleared at the Port of Taganrog.

Foreign Shipping Arrived from abroad at the Port of Taganrog since October 1, 1877.

Date.	Flag.	Name of Vessel.	Name of Master.	Tonnage.	Nature of Cargo.
October $\frac{4}{16}$	Greek ..	Angelli ..	Alexander Yankis ..	About 220 ..	Ballast.

Foreign Shipping Cleared from abroad at the Port of Taganrog since October 1, 1877.

Date.	Flag.	Name of Vessel.	Name of Master.	Tonnage.	Nature of Cargo.
October $\frac{11}{23}$	Greek ..	Panaghiotis ..	Michael Peloponnali	About 150 ..	Barley, yellow maize.
,, $\frac{11}{23}$	,, ..	Evangelista ..	Lazari Michalimaco ..	,, 180 ..	Corn.
,, $\frac{11}{23}$	,, ..	Virginia ..	Anton Scuda ..	,, 90 ..	Wheat and Barley.
,, $\frac{11}{23}$	,, ..	Anali ..	Johan Kindia ..	,, 76 ..	Ditto.
,, $\frac{11}{23}$	,, ..	Anetta ..	Yorgi Mavrantonaco ..	,, 92 ..	Wheat.
,, $\frac{11}{23}$	,, ..	Angelli ..	Alexander Yankis ..	,, 220 ..	Ballast.

N.B.—The three first-named were Russian, carrying wheat that had taken in Berdiansk since the blockade commenced; the Greek brig is from the Black Sea with ballast. I understand that the last-named vessel will take on cargo at some other Azoff port.

(Signed) J. P. CARRUTHERS.

Taganrog, November 1, 1877.

No. 70.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 476.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 8, 1877, 7 p.m.

THE Geshoffs and their families have left Philippopoli for Constantinople; and I am promised that they shall be kindly and considerately treated.

No. 71.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 477.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 8, 1877, 7·10 p.m.

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade:—

"Porte has been informed that Servia is about to send an army of 35,000 men in the direction of Widin and Orsova. Is there any truth in this report? Let me know as soon as possible."

No 72.

The Earl of Derby to Acting Consul Freeman.

(No. 22. Political.)
Foreign Office, November 9, 1877.

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 70, Consular, of the 26th ultimo, has been received, and I have to convey to you my approval of the language which you held to the Governor-General at Bosna-Serai, maintaining the right of the British Consular authorities in Bosnia to travel to whatever part of Bosnia they chose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 73.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 1263. Very Confidential.)
Therapia, October 29, 1877.

My Lord,

A PERSON who has means of obtaining the best and most trustworthy information as to what is going on at the Porte has given me the following report, the truth of which I have been able to test from independent sources:—

"Latterly rumours of direct negotiations between Russia and Turkey for the conclusion of peace have been circulated at the Porte. As they are completely unfounded, they would scarcely be worth mentioning if, during the last day or two, they had not acquired sufficient importance to cause considerable suspicion to the French Embassy and Italian Legation, who are employing at this moment all the means in their power to get at the truth in this matter. It may be confidently asserted, as it has already been stated, that these rumours are untrue; but it is, at the same time, evident that their persistent repetition must be attributed to some cause and can be traced to some source. The Turks have unquestionably been very much disquieted for several days past, and if they do not think of taking the initiative in any proposals for peace, they would be very happy that occasion should be given to them of doing something in that direction. Discouraged by England, whose policy seems to them more and more reserved, they turn towards France, and watch, with the greatest interest, the political events passing in that country, in the hope of seeing a stable Government established in it which would permit it to take a more active part in the European complications arising out of the Turkish question. Yesterday Server Pasha observed: 'We do not expect that France, freed from her internal troubles, will at once interfere in the conflict now going on, but we are persuaded that she will in the end come to an understanding with England for a common action, which would soon lead to an alliance, into which Austria would certainly be drawn, against Germany and Russia. France without England will not move, and England without France is powerless on the continent.'"

I repeat these opinions to your Lordship for what they are worth, but they are so far interesting, as being those of well-informed and intelligent Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 74.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 1265.)

Therapia, October 29, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 620 of the 18th instant, transmitting to me a copy of a Memorial from the Eastern Question Association protesting against the appointment of Chevket Pasha to the command of the Turkish army in Bulgaria, I desire to remind your Lordship of the facts of the case.

In the month of July last, I was asked by the Sultan, through Mahmoud Damat Pasha, whether, considering the great difficulties in which the Empire is placed, Her Majesty's Government would still object to the employment in active service of Chevket Pasha. It was represented to me that he was an officer of great merit and activity, enjoying the confidence of the Turkish soldiers, and that in the urgent need in which the Turkish Government stood of capable Commanders to meet the Russian invasion, they were most anxious to avail themselves of his services.

I stated, in reply, that I could not give my consent to Chevket Pasha's employment without the sanction of Her Majesty's Government. I accordingly telegraphed to your Lordship on the 16th July the Sultan's message. In reply, your Lordship informed me that Her Majesty's Government could not be expected to acquiesce in Chevket Pasha's appointment to a command, and that it was evident that his employment could not fail to have a bad effect on public opinion in England.

I communicated your Lordship's answer to Mahmoud Damat Pasha. I was subsequently informed by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Turkish Ambassador in London had spoken to your Lordship on the same subject, and that your Lordship had given his Excellency a somewhat similar answer, viz., that Her Majesty's Government could not acquiesce in Chevket Pasha's nomination to a command, yet that under present circumstances they had no right to dictate to the Porte what officers it should employ. I did not, therefore, consider it necessary to take further steps in the matter, and Chevket Pasha was appointed, not to a high command in Bulgaria, as stated in the Memorial of the Eastern Question Association, but to the subordinate command, without any advancement in rank, of the forces sent to Orchanie for the relief of Osman Pasha at Plevna, a military operation of great difficulty and importance, which he appears to have executed with courage and skill.

I may further mention that I have received frequent messages from Chevket Pasha asserting his innocence of the charges made against him in connection with the Bulgarian massacre of last year, but I have refused to accede to his wish to have an interview with me. Persons who are well competent to judge of his capacity and of his influence over the Turkish troops, amongst others Mr. Reade, copy of whose despatch on the subject I forwarded to your Lordship in my No. 797 of the 17th July, have spoken highly in his favour to me.

It is at least some satisfaction to find by Consul Blunt's despatch of October 19, of which I am forwarding a copy by this messenger, that, according to Vice-Consul Calvert, "Chevket Pasha is keeping his troops in capital discipline, punishing all irregularities with great severity. All the Bulgarian villages on Chevket's line of march are in the occupation of their inhabitants."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 75.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 1269.)

Therapia, October 29, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 607 of the 18th instant, relative to the intention of the Greek Government to protest against the application of the provisions of martial law to foreign subjects in Turkey, and requesting me to inform your Lordship how this matter stands, I have the honour to state that no complaints have reached me from British subjects with regard to it. I am aware that representations have been made with respect to the promulgation of the law by the Greek Minister to the Porte, who has asked me on more than one occasion whether I would join with him in a protest against it. But as I had received positive assurances from the Porte that the law would not be enforced against foreigners, and that promise had not been violated as regards British subjects, I did not think it desirable or necessary to assent to my Greek

colleague's request. My impression is that the Greek Government has very much exaggerated the consequences of the law, and has sought to find in it a fresh grievance against Turkey. However that may be, I cannot say that any instances have hitherto been brought to my notice of any violation of the rights of foreigners in this country on account of the proclamation of martial law in some districts in which disorders and insurrections, mainly incited by foreign agents, are apprehended by the Turkish Government. Under the capitulations, foreigners have the happy privilege of being able to conspire against that Government with impunity.

Your Lordship is aware that the Porte consulted me privately as to some measures they proposed to take with regard to foreigners living in places under martial law. I submitted them to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1087, Confidential, of the 17th ultimo. Your Lordship's opinions were unfavourable to them. I communicated it to the Porte, also privately, and nothing more has been done in the matter. I have spoken on the subject to Server Pasha, and he assures me that the law will not be applied to foreigners without previous communication with the foreign Representatives at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 76.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 1271.)

Therapia, October 30, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant, requesting me to inform you whether the Jewish families who had left Kyzanlik on the Russian invasion of Roumelia, and had taken refuge at Bucharest, could now return to that town with safety, I have the honour to state that I at once telegraphed on the subject to Consul Blunt, who is now at that town. I have received a telegraphic reply from him, copy inclosed, in which he informs me that they can return with perfect safety, and that they will receive every protection from the Turkish authorities.

It appears that these fugitive Jews have already left Bucharest, and are now on their way to Constantinople, where they are expected to arrive in a few days. I am in communication about them with Mr. Fernandez, a leading member of the Jewish community in this city. I shall be able to afford them some relief and assistance out of the funds placed at my disposal by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts and the Messrs. Rothschild.

I have also spoken to Server Pasha about the Kyzanlik Jews, and have every reason to believe that as long as the town remains under the Turkish authorities these poor people have nothing to fear. Should, however, the Russian forces again cross the Balkans, and the Bulgarians be enabled to resume their work of massacre and extermination, the unhappy Jews will be, it is to be feared, amongst their victims.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Kyzanlik, October 29, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Jewish exiles now at Bucharest can, in my opinion, return to Kyzanlik with perfect safety as regards the internal state of the district. The country on this side of the Balkans has been completely cleared of insurgents, and the exiles may confidently rely on a continuance of the sympathy and active goodwill shown to the remnant of their communities here and at Eski-Zaghra by the Turkish troops, irregular as well as regular, who rescued them. Some Jews have already returned from Adrianople and Philippopoli and opened shops here. None of the houses inhabited by the community at Kyzanlik have been burnt, but nearly all will need some little repairs; and, although business is gradually reviving, the poorer exiles would at first require some pecuniary help. I shall do all in my power to further the views of the Jewish Alliance.

No. 77.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 1272.)

Therapia, October 30, 1877.

My Lord,

MEHEMET ALI PASHA, the late Commander-in-chief of the Turkish army of the Danube, has been named to the military command in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He left Constantinople for his post yesterday. I understand that he is ordered to collect all the forces that are in those Provinces and to march to the relief of Osman Pasha at Plevna. It is believed that he will be able to get together about 30,000 men for that purpose.

He was much disappointed at not having seen the Sultan before his departure. But those who had intrigued to procure his recall from Bulgaria were able to bar his access to His Majesty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 78.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 1273.)

Therapia, October 30, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Sultan sent me an Aide-de-camp yesterday with a telegram just received from Suleiman Pasha to the following effect:—

"A good many Mussulmans residing in the districts conquered by the enemy had lately been removed to a place of safety by the heroic efforts of the Turkish volunteers. But a different fate awaited the Mussulman inhabitants of the village of Kaba-Bikian, 100 of whom, namely, young men capable of bearing arms, were delivered by the Cossacks into the hands of the Bulgarians, and caused them to be butchered in their presence in cold blood."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 79.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 1276.)

Therapia, October 31, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 22nd instant, informing me that the Russian authorities complain to Colonel Wellesley that certain English officers, whose names are mentioned, are serving in the Turkish army, and requesting me to state to your Lordship whether it is a fact that they are actually so serving in the active Turkish army, I have been unable to answer your Lordship's inquiries before, as it has been necessary to make inquiries to ascertain something about the persons indicated. Your Lordship will find by the inclosed report, which General Sir Collingwood Dickson has been good enough to draw up for me, that the Russian authorities appear to have been entirely misinformed on the subject.

Probably one of the many Russian agents here has drawn up a list of English travellers and others who may have been here at some particular period, and have denounced them as English officers serving in the active Turkish army.

Several English officers who had been engaged to serve with Baker Pasha in organizing the police were living here without occupation. I asked the Grand Vizier whether I might employ them in assisting in the distribution of relief to the fugitive Mussulman and Christian women and children who had been driven out of their homes by the Russian invasion, suggesting that their employment on such a service in the provinces would enable them to obtain a knowledge of this country, and of the people and of their language, which would be very useful to them hereafter when discharging the duties which they were engaged by the Porte to perform.

His Highness gladly acceded to my request, and Colonel Blunt and Captains Synge, Norton, and Coope have been able to afford assistance and relief to many thousands of

suffering and starving human beings in Bulgaria and Roumelia, and deserve my warmest thanks for their exertions in the cause of humanity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 79.

List of Names of English subjects sent out by the Foreign Office to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople who are stated to be serving in the active army of Turkey. The list shows the employment held by each person whose position and whereabouts can be traced.

COLONEL ERLE.—Retired from Her Majesty's Indian service; not yet arrived in this country; is to receive an appointment in the Turkish gendarmerie under Baker Pasha.

Colonel Tahir Bey.—A Turk serving in Baker Pasha's gendarmerie.

Colonel Shuldham.—Retired British officer in gendarmerie.

Major M. Fawcett.—Ditto.

Major A. Fawcett.—Ditto.

Major Synge.—Ditto; has been employed in distribution of Compassionate Fund (Refugees') in Bulgaria by direction of Her Majesty's Ambassador. He is now in Salonica, at his farm, on which he has resided for five or six years.

Captains Coope, Blunt and Norton.—All in gendarmerie; have been employed by Mr. Layard in various places distributing relief, in the same manner as Captain Synge.

Captains Swire and Briscoe.—In gendarmerie under Baker Pasha.

Captain Zivou Bey.—A Turk.

Captains Studdy and Whitby, and Adjutant Major Harris.—All employed under Baker Pasha in the gendarmerie.

Captain Havelock.—Unknown; cannot be traced.

Captain Williams.—Several of his name are employed in the Civil Service of Turkey (Dockyard), and have been so for some years.

Lieutenants Jones (two).—Both unknown; cannot be traced.

Lieutenant Mullowson.—Ditto.

Lieutenant Douglas.—Ditto.

Lieutenant Scott.—Engineer in civil employ in Arsenal.

Lieutenant McLeod.—Ditto.

Lieutenant Russell.—Unknown; cannot be traced.

Lieutenant Noel.—Ditto.

Lieutenant Davis.—Gunnery Instructor, attached to Arsenal; has been so employed before the war.

Surgeon Smith.—Employed as a civil surgeon in hospital work at Plevna; not in army.

The above is a correct list as far as can be ascertained, and none of the above persons are employed in the active Turkish army.

No. 80.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 1277.)

Therapia, October 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls in Roumelia on the subject of the state of affairs in that province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 80.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Kyzanlik, October 19, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Excellency's information, a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, giving further particulars relative to the proceedings of the military authorities at Philippopolis with regard to the trial and execution of Bulgarians; and also reporting the measures taken by those authorities for the repression of lawlessness in that district.

I avail myself of this opportunity to bring under your Excellency's notice the following extract of a private letter which I have also received from Mr. Calvert, dated 13th instant, relative to Shevket Pasha:—

"I hear from Sofia that Shevket Pasha is keeping his troops in capital discipline, punishing all irregularities with great severity. All the Bulgarian villages on Shevket's line of march are in the occupation of their inhabitants, which shows that the Turks do not massacre Bulgarians from whom they have suffered no injury."

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 80.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, October 13, 1877.

Sir,

WITH regard to the Bulgarians executed in the villages of this district by sentence of the Philippopoli Court-martial, I regret to state that I have been unable to obtain the list I had hoped to send you. Ibrahim Pasha, to whom I applied for this information, as well as for a statement of the offences with which the prisoners were charged, has notified to me that he does not consider himself authorized to communicate it to me; but he informs me that he has sent all the particulars of the trials and executions to His Majesty the Sultan, who, he states, will no doubt be willing to communicate them to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

The list of executions which I had the honour to forward to you on the 20th ultimo was unofficially given me by the late Mutessarif. Since that date, twenty-two Bulgarians have been executed in Philippopoli, while about forty-five, I believe, have been sent hence for execution in the villages.

In all the number of executions by sentence of the Philippopoli Court-martial amounts, it is stated, to 245.

Amongst the individuals executed are more than a dozen of the leading inhabitants of Sopot and Carlowa. These were among the first who suffered capital punishment. Many of the wealthier inhabitants of Carlowa and Sopot have succeeded, it is believed, in escaping over the Balkans into the Russian lines.

Over 1,200 Bulgarians have been brought into Philippopoli as prisoners during the past two months; but their number is now reduced to about 700 by executions, acquittal, or exile. One hundred and twenty were the other day sent by train to Constantinople, to be thence deported; and forty were dispatched this morning to the same destination. About 120 have been released, but are not allowed to return to their villages. Amongst the exiles are several of the leading Bulgarians, inhabitants of Tatar-Bazardjik, who are stated to have been in correspondence with the revolutionary committees abroad.

I am glad to be able to report that the military authorities have latterly taken some active steps to check the lawlessness which I have had to record. Ibrahim Pasha has caused some fifty Circassian and other marauders to be lodged in gaol. A number of these ruffians were apprehended by the binbashi of police. A despairing complaint having been made to the authorities by the people of the Bulgarian village of Abrashlar, the binbashi was ordered by the military commandant to proceed in person against a gang of Circassians who were terrorising the unfortunate villagers. The binbashi returned three days ago, bringing with him twenty of the robbers. He has stated here that he was obliged to order his men to shoot down five or six of the gang who made an attempt at resistance.

Four zaptiehs have also been put under arrest for having allowed a party of Bulgarians, whom they were escorting from here to Avrat-Alan, to be plundered by Bashi-Bazouks.

It is to be hoped that the military authorities will persevere in their endeavours to put down the existing lawlessness, which threatens otherwise to put a finishing stroke to the prosperity of the Philippopoli district.

Hundreds of Circassian families are flying hither from the districts north of the Balkans. The male fugitives of that tribe are reported to have subjected the villages on their way to every kind of extortion and abuse. Mussulmans and Christians alike complain of their misdeeds. It is to be feared that they will be a source of infinite trouble in the future.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

P.S.—Forty-nine Bulgarians have just been dispatched to Tchirpan for execution.

F. R. J. C.

Inclosure 3 in No. 80.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Kyzanlik, October 19, 1877.

Sir,

ONE of the objects which I had in view in visiting this district was to urge on the military authorities in the Balkans to do their utmost for the recovery of the numerous Bulgarian women and children who, as I was informed at Adrianople, had followed the Russian army on its retreat from the Tundji valley, and who were said to have been left by them, alone and in a state of utter destitution, in the recesses of the mountains, most of the Bulgarian men having been impressed into the Russian service, either as combatants or for the purposes of transport.

Immediately on my arrival at Kyzanlik, I placed myself in communication with Raouf Pasha, an old friend of mine, and whom I know to be both liberal and humane, and with Shakir Pasha, his Excellency's second in command.

I was glad to find, even before I entered fully into the subject with them, that both these Generals had already taken some steps in behalf of these poor people. They have most cordially responded to my appeal, which I made unofficially and on my own responsibility, and requested me to furnish them with any information which I might procure with a view to the furtherance of this object. Raouf Pasha even authorized me to employ trustworthy agents for the purpose discovering the hiding-places of the poor fugitives, promising to afford them every protection. He has issued the strictest orders to the cavalry patrols in the Balkans to act in this sense, and I am happy to say that twelve Bulgarian women and children have already been recovered by two of these patrols, and are being cared for with the other Bulgarian fugitives in the monastery at Kyzanlik, with regard to whom I wrote to your Excellency in my last private letter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 80.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, September 26, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, on the 19th instant, five Bulgarians were sent here from Slimnia to be executed; four of them belonged to the village of Curadja Mouratli, from which, on the 6th of August, I had met the women and children fleeing to the Balkans, and saying that their homes had been attacked by Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks. These men, with others, were accused of having murdered three Mustahfiz soldiers who took refuge in their village after the Turkish defeat at Yeni-Zaghra, on the 30th July, and, I am informed by an Armenian who was present at their trial, that there could be no doubt of their guilt. Thirty-five to forty Bulgarians from Curadji Mouratli have, I am told, been hung for this crime at Slimnia and other towns in the sandjak.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 80.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, October 20, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 17th instant about twenty armed Circassians entered the town of Misseoria and proceeded at once to the official residence of the Kaïmakam, whom they threatened with their fire-arms and (it is said) struck with their whips; they then took by force 400 piastres of Government money from the employés who were receiving the tax upon the vintage, and carried off on their horses the entire stock of two shops, consisting in cloth, linen, silk, &c., and valued at 450*l.* Turkish.

They told the Kaïmakam that they were retaliating upon him for having caused certain Circassians to be arrested, and in order to show him that he was utterly powerless in their hands.

In the Bourgas and Karnabad districts constant complaints have been made during the last few days of highway robberies by Circassians, who had been comparatively quiet during the three weeks previous.

I have, &c.

(signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 81.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 1289.)

Therapia, October 31, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 546 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that Vizirial orders have been sent to the authorities in Syria that the Bulgarian prisoners at Acre should be treated with humanity and leniency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 82.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 1291.)

Therapia, October 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to me by Colonel Nixon, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Baghdad. The description that it gives of the state of that part of the Empire affords a further proof, were any required, of the anarchy which the war has occasioned throughout Turkey and the evils that it is producing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 82.

Consul-General Nixon to Mr. Layard.

Baghdad, September 22, 1877.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch dated 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit a further report from Hyder Allee Khan, Honourary Native Agent at Kerbella, and to state that grave disturbances are still occurring at Kerbella, Nejjeff, and all along the line up the Euphrates at Dagharra Afliehe, &c.

The Arabs are fighting among themselves as well as against the Turkish authorities. The Governor-General of Baghdad, Mahomed Akif Pasha, and also the Commander-in-chief, Mahomed Fouzee Pasha, are still at Kerbella; additional troops have again been sent in that direction. The whole province has been greatly disorganised, and these disturbances are likely to be very detrimental to the welfare of the country in general, as all cultivation will be suspended until peace and order is restored.

Regular communication with Kerbella has been interrupted.

It is much to be regretted that Syud Allee Nuckkee has been assassinated; he was a well-wisher of our Government, and the nephew of the High Priest, Syud Allee Bah-ool-Ooloom, of Nejjeff, and he was a man very highly respected. I have written a letter to Syud Allee expressive of my regret at his nephew's death, which will I hope be approved. Syud Allee Nuckkee bore the appellation of "Bab-ool-Ooloom," or Door of Learning. He was very active in settling the first disturbances at Nejjeff, and did so successfully.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. NIXON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82.

Hyder Ali Khan to Consul-General Nixon.

(Translation.)

Kerbella, 8 Ramazan, 1294 (September 16, 1877).

Sir,

AFTER tendering humble respects, I beg to acknowledge receipt of your orders per messenger, and report the particulars of the confusion in the town of Kerbella as follows:—

The Governor-General, the Mushir Pasha, the Nukeeb of the Sheikh, and others arrived here, accompanied with the two tribes of the Saiede and Deleym Arabs and a battalion of regular troops, in all 2,000 men; they took quarters at the Government buildings near the new town. Next day I waited upon the Governor-General, and his Excellency, calling for the withdrawal of the people, received me with all marks of honour and respect.

Owing to the increased number of troops and Arabs in the town, robberies of turbans and cloaks are occurring in the streets, committed by the low class of Arabs and troops, and outside the town some of those who are in the habit of frequenting the gardens were plundered by the Deleym Arabs, and a number of people were killed. This tribe and the Anizeh, whom the Governor has summoned to render assistance, have also plundered a flock of 1,000 sheep from the Beni-Hassan tribe, and killed a number from that tribe in the gardens. The mutinous troops have run away and not re-appeared again. On Saturday the 6th instant thirty-five men of the elders of the town of Kerbella, such as Hajee Gherib and others, were arrested by the orders of the Governor-General, and the authorities are still engaged in arresting the seditious men of the town, some of whom have, however, taken flight. The following persons have also been imprisoned and sent to Baghdad under escort because they had attested to a document pledging for the submission of the murderers and their abstaining from doing mischief, viz.:—

Hajee Mohsen Kemsmeh.
Shaik Mahomed, late President of the Mercantile Court.
Syed Ibrahim Isfahanee.
Syed Ja'afer Thabit.
Syed Ali Dohub.
Syed Mohamed Ali, late President of the Municipal Council.

Further, Syed Ali Nukkee Bab-ool-Ooloom, the nephew of Aeha Syed Ali Bab-ool-Ooloom, of Nejjeli, having come from that town to Kerbella and become a guest of Hajee Meerza Aboul Cassim, the High Priest, was on the 3rd day of Ramazan, while present in an assembly of visitors at the said Meerza's house at the time of the breaking of the fast, twice fired at with pistols discharged by some one there who ran away, but the visitors and the Nejjeff people suspect the instigator to be the son of Molla Yousif, the late Killiddar of Nejjeff, as he was thought to have made a sign that he should be shot, and he was present there at the time: the authorities have accordingly arrested Molla Yousif and his son, and yesterday, 7th instant, Syed Ali Nukkee died of the wounds and his body was taken to Nejjeff.

Should there be any news hereafter I shall not fail reporting.

(Signed) HYDER ALI KHAN.

No. 83.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 277.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 28, 1877.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople having transmitted to me a copy of his despatch No. 1238 to your Lordship, in which his Excellency mentions that Server Pasha had expressed himself as anxious to settle all questions which might arise with Greece in a just and conciliatory spirit, if she would maintain a neutral and pacific attitude, I have the honour to report that I have informed the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs of the conciliatory language which had been held by Server Pasha to Mr. Layard with regard to Greece, and that M. Tricoupi said that he had received similar assurances from Photiades Bey, the Ottoman Minister at this Court.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 84.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 278.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 31, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 274 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith translation, by Mr. Lambros, of a further letter from Thessaly, dated Larissa, the $\frac{1}{13}$th October, and published in the "Hora," the organ of M. Tricoupi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, detailing further excesses and acts of cruelty committed by Bashi-Bazouks in the above-mentioned province.

I have also the honour to report that the Representatives of France, Austria, and Italy have informed me that their Consular reports give a deplorable account of the state of affairs in Thessaly, owing to the atrocities committed by the Bashi-Bazouks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Extract from a Letter published in the "Hora" of October $\frac{1}{13}$, 1877.

(Translation.) *Larissa, October $\frac{19}{31}$, 1877.*

THE Guegues are dispersed about Mount Olympus, and commit all that a satanic can possibly imagine, besides plunder, insult, beating, and all kind of torture; they are now commencing to wound and kill Christians in all sorts of ways. At Kokkinoplo, a village of 250 houses, lying on the north-west slope of Olympus, 600 men, chiefly of cavalry, after having for the space of a week devoured all that the miserable inhabitants possessed for their winter provisions, besides plundering all they found, wounded with their knives four Christians, and shot with pistols the son of Joanni Loggou, a lad of 7 years of age, whom they used as a target; one of the three shots fired at the lad hit him in his thigh. In the village of Ziaziko, three hours west of Katerines, they wounded three persons, one of whom, Tzipas Photis, died, pierced through the stomach; at the village of Licondi, lying two hours north of Elassona, after having committed their usual atrocities, they shot and killed the wife of Demetrius Vaitzi, who was trying to escape from being dishonoured, and the murderer was cheered by his "comarades" for his successful shot. Many of the villages have been abandoned, and the inhabitants have taken refuge, some in small towns and others on the mountains.

An Ottoman Commission of Inquiry was sent to Tirnova, before whom the inhabitants were to present themselves and lodge their complaints as to their sufferings from the conduct of the Bashi-Bazouks. This Commission exacted that Ottoman witnesses should be brought forward to prove their statement, and as it was impossible to find Ottoman witnesses, the Commission considered their mission terminated and left, after being furnished with a written document from the victims that they had found it impossible to produce the required Ottoman witnesses. It is apparent from all this that the authorities have little wish to punish such atrocities committed upon Christians and to prevent the repetition of such enormities, since in self-evident crimes they require Ottoman witnesses, a thing

they know from the first to be impossible. After the Commission had departed the Bashi-Bazouks resumed their criminal acts. Shops up to yesterday were still closed, and the inhabitants dared not to come out of their houses.

Another Commission has been sent from Yanina, formed of Jacoub Bey, Artemiadon Mouravi, and Mustapha Bey, to inquire into the atrocities committed here. The result of the mission of this Commission will be the same as that of the former, as they also demand Ottoman witnesses.

The body of Bashi-Bazouks who slaughtered the three Christians at Volo have arrived at Larissa, and have been ordered to Yanina, but they refuse to obey. Here they ill-treat the citizens, plunder the shops, and commit other enormities.

At Rapsani other Bashi-Bazouks tortured three Christians, and hung them over burning straw to compel them to give up their money.

Others at Elasson, who had killed a Christian, threatened the inhabitants with a general slaughter and plunder if they did not furnish them with a document attesting that this murder had not been committed.

No. 85.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 279. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 31, 1877.*

IN my despatch No. 268, Confidential, of the 17th instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that information had reached me to the effect that an exchange of ideas had lately taken place between Russia and Greece as to an alliance offensive and defensive, and that M. Tricoupi had stated that no such Convention existed.

I have since then been confidentially informed that in the exchange of ideas which took place, Greece had asked Russia to endeavour to get Europe to acknowledge the inviolability of the Greek coasts, and also to induce Germany and Italy to protect those coasts with their naval forces.

The "Stoa," a newspaper published in Athens, contained a statement on the $\frac{8}{20}$th October to the effect that the "Clio" (a Greek newspaper published at Trieste) had learned from Rome that the Italian Government had promised moral support to that of Greece, but that it did not consider the moment opportune to give direct promises, and much less to promise that in case of a war between Greece and Turkey, Italy would mix herself up in it by protecting the sea-coast towns of Greece.

I have heard from the Italian Minister at Athens that he was advising Greece to maintain a pacific attitude; and with regard to the alleged Convention between Russia and Greece, I cannot learn that any exists.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 86.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 283.)

My Lord, *Athens, November 2, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 83 of the 18th ultimo, and to state that I to-day informed the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government had learnt with satisfaction that the Nomarch and Epireh of Acarnania had been removed from their posts, and that some of the Greek troops were being withdrawn from the frontier, and sent to the camp at Thebes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 87.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 284. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, November 2, 1877.*

DURING the last few days telegrams reporting Russian successes in Asia Minor and Bulgaria have reached Athens, and have of course attracted considerable attention, and I have been told that the popular idea is that when Plevna falls, an event which is here shortly expected, Greece must take up arms:—

I had some conversation to-day with M. Tricoupi on this subject; he told me he did not think the public was at present violently excited, but that if the Russians crossed the Balkans public opinion might force the Government to diverge from its present attitude.

M. Tricoupi said that of course the passage of the Balkans now depended very much upon the weather, but that he thought, from information which reached him, that the Russians were determined to get to Adrianople, and that he did not think they would be content with an autonomous province of Bulgaria of any less extent than was proposed at the Conferences lately held at Constantinople, and that such an arrangement would be contrary to the interests of Hellenism.

I asked him if, in the event of the Russians crossing the Balkans, he thought Greece would send troops over the frontiers. He replied that he thought so, unless Greece could obtain a promise of being represented or heard in the conferences which might take place to settle the terms of peace. I asked M. Tricoupi if he thought that all the Powers would consent to Greece being so represented, as only the powers who had signed the Treaty of Paris of 1856 appeared to have a right to assist at such a Conference.

He replied that he thought all Powers directly interested in the question at issue had a right to be represented, and that at any rate Greece must do something to obtain that right. Sardinia, he said, had sent a small force to the Crimea, and had thereby obtained a position which had admitted her to the deliberations for the settlement of peace, and that Greece must, in all probability, do something analogous, as she had been refused a hearing at the Conferences lately held at Constantinople.

I told M. Tricoupi I thought Greece had much better be patient; that moving troops across the frontier would expose her to very great dangers; and I also reminded him that your Lordship had stated that you would use your best endeavours to obtain for the Greeks the same advantages as might be granted to the Slavs.

His Excellency replied to the effect that as to the danger that could not be helped, and he expressed himself as not satisfied with the promises of Her Majesty's Government.

I also asked him in the course of conversation if some of the men of the reserves who had been put under arms were not going to be sent to their homes; he said "Yes, but that will take place in January, and then others will come forward in their stead for military instruction."

I do not think there is any immediate ground for alarm, but still Her Majesty's Government must not be surprised if a series of signal successes on the part of the Russians, and an advance across the Balkans, have the effect of causing much excitement in Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 88.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 91. Political.)

My Lord, *Galatz, November 5, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I am informed by M. Romanenko, the Russian Consul at Galatz, that he has now obtained permission for such vessels as are in the Danube to ply between Galatz, Ibraïla, and Tchernavoda on the one hand, and between Galatz, Toultcha, Isnaïl, and Vilkova, at the Kilia mouth of the river, on the other; and it seems probable that in consequence of this permission the torpedoes placed below Keui will be removed.

Latterly bands of robbers have made their appearance in this country, their numbers varying from six to fifteen, and their operations being chiefly carried on in the districts of Tekutch and Bacau. They are well armed, and it is stated have in some cases made their attacks in broad daylight.

A band of fifteen a few nights since visited the threshing-floor of Messrs. Powell and Guirard at a village called Marsishesti. Their object was to find and rob the bailiff, but finding that he had left for Galatz they retired, after forcing a peasant and his wife to give them a good meal.

M. Bratiano passed through by rail last night, and it is reported that he has gone to Tekutch to concert measures with the Prefect of that district for the capture of these men, whose number a local paper gives as about 100, hinting at the same time that their Chief is of good birth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 89.

M. Gennadius to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

My Lord, *Greek Legation, November 8, 1877.*

IN continuation of M. Tricoupi's note on the free passage of the Straits of Prevesa, which I had the honour to communicate to Mr. Lister on the 18th of September last, I now beg to submit to your Lordship copies of three further documents on the same subject exchanged between His Majesty's Government and that of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 89.

M. Tricoupi to M. Coundouriotis.

M. le Ministre, *Athènes, le* $\frac{25 \text{ Septembre}}{7 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1877.

J'AI pris connaissance de la note qui vous a été adressée en date du 25 Septembre, par son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte en réponse à la vôtre du $\frac{23 \text{ Août}}{4 \text{ Septembre}}$ et relative à la navigation du Golfe d'Arta.

Server Pacha déclare, dans sa note, "que le Gouvernement Impérial reconnaît, comme il a toujours reconnu, le droit pour les bâtiments Grecs de franchir librement le Détroit de Prévéza, soit à l'entrée, soit à la sortie du Golfe d'Arta, ainsi qu'il a été établi par une stipulation spéciale de l'Acte de 1832."

Cette déclaration aurait dû suffire pour mettre fin à toute discussion. Le retrait de la mesure récente de la Porte prohibant le passage du détroit pendant la nuit en serait la conséquence logique.

La liberté du passage, proclamée en faveur des bâtiments Grecs par l'Acte constitutif des droits de la Porte sur le fort de Punta, est absolue; elle n'admet aucune distinction entre la navigation d'entrée ou de sortie, entre celle de jour ou de nuit. Les droits de la Grèce, ainsi définis, relèvent directement du Traité et existent au même titre que ceux de la Porte sur le fort de Punta. Nos bâtiments exercent le droit de passage, en vertu de ce Traité et sans tenir compte des permissions ou des prohibitions émanant d'autorités n'ayant aucun titre pour en émettre.

Telle étant la condition créée à la navigation du détroit par le Traité de Constantinople, et la liberté de passage consacrée par ce Traité étant expressément reconnue par Server Pacha, dans sa note, nous avons tout lieu d'être surpris en voyant son Excellence prendre, dans cette même note, la défense d'une mesure qui équivaut à la négative de la liberté du passage. D'après Server Pacha, la possession par la Turquie de Punta en face de Prévéza serait sans effet et illusoire si elle n'entraînait l'exercice d'une certaine autorité sur le détroit. Tel n'a pas été l'avis de ceux qui furent appelés à déterminer, par le Traité de Constantinople, les conditions dans lesquelles s'effectuerait le passage du détroit.

L'autorité que Server Pacha réclame aujourd'hui fut expressément écartée dans le Traité de 1832 et, qui plus est, elle ne fut pas comprise alors dans la demande de la Porte. Lorsque, dans la Conférence de Constantinople de 1832, le Reis Effendi formula sa demande que Punta fût laissé à la Porte, il eut soin d'en préciser le but. Il parla "d'un petit promontoire nommé 'Punta,' situé en face de Prévéza, qui est très-nécessaire à la Porte, parcequ'il domine le canal, et parcequ'la possession de ce point est indispensable

pour protéger le passage des bâtiments Turcs dans le golfe. La cession," a-t-il conclu, "de ce promontoire à la Grèce serait donc très-préjudiciable à la Porte."

Telles étaient en l'année 1832 les prétentions de la Porte; elle n'aspirait nullement au droit d'interdire, de contrôler ou de réglementer le passage des bâtiments Grecs; sa demande ne visait que la défense stratégique de Prévéza et la protection du passage des bâtiments Turcs. Nous ne pouvons donc admettre aujourd'hui, en faveur de la Porte et à notre détriment, des droits sur le détroit portant atteinte à ceux que nous possédons comme riverains du golfe. Nos droits furent expressément consacrés par le Traité de 1832, tandis que ceux que la Porte réclame aujourd'hui lui furent refusés par ce Traité, et ne furent même pas sollicités par elle lors de son élaboration.

Veuillez, en conséquence, vous expliquer là-dessus clairement avec Server Pacha, en réitérant à son Excellence la déclaration que la circulaire qui vous fut adressée par la Sublime Porte, en date du 25 Août, ne peut sortir son effet en violation des droits qui nous sont garantis par les Traités.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 89.

M. Coundouriotis to Server Pasha.

Bouyouk-déré, le $\frac{29 \text{ Août}}{7 \text{ Septembre}}$ 1877.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note Circulaire de votre Excellence en date du 25 Août, par laquelle vous m'informez que le Gouvernement Impérial vient d'interdire, provisoirement et jusqu'à nouvel avis, l'entrée et la sortie de la passe de Prévéza à tous navires et embarcations, après le coucher du soleil.

La Légation du Roi, par ses notes réitérées, et le Gouvernement Royal à Athènes, par sa communication à Photiades Bey, en date du 29 Avril, 1867, ont démontré à la Sublime Porte l'unanimité de sa prétention tendant à se constituer maîtresse du Détroit de Prévéza, par la raison qu'elle est en possession du fort de Punta, qui domine l'endroit en question.

Il me suffira, cependant, M. le Ministre, de rappeler à votre Excellence que les droits découlant de notre qualité de Puissance riveraine du Golfe d'Arta ne sauraient nullement être infirmés par la circonstance que la Porte possède les deux pointes de terre qui forment l'entrée du détroit de port de Prévéza. Il en est ainsi, en vertu du principe, généralement admis en cette matière, et d'après lequel, à défaut de stipulation contraire, la possession de deux rives à l'entrée d'une mer ou d'un golfe n'implique pas en faveur du possesseur le droit d'interdire l'accès de cette mer. Il l'est à plus forte raison, par suite des conditions expresses, auxquelles la cession du Promontoire de Punta a été soumise par l'Acte international qui consacra cette cession.

En effet, c'est un des préceptes non contestés du droit international, que la liberté des mers et des eaux ne peut être restreinte que par des stipulations formelles reconnues et acceptées par les Etats riverains. Quant aux eaux fermées, telles que golfes, rades, ports, elles appartiennent à l'Etat ou aux Etats dont elles baignent le rivage. Or, il n'existe aucune stipulation de nature à restreindre nos droits, quant à l'accès du Golfe Ambrasique.

Bien au contraire, l'Article VI du Traité de 1832 a formellement stipulé que les Ottomans n'apporteront aucun empêchement au passage des bâtiments Grecs.

Il en résulte évidemment, M. le Ministre, que la Sublime Porte ne saurait, de sa propre autorité, et sans le consentement du Gouvernement du Roi, prendre des mesures portant empêchement au passage du détroit.

Après tout ce que je viens d'exposer, je crois inutile d'entrer dans de plus longs développements, et je me borne à déclarer que la notification susmentionnée de votre Excellence ne saurait avoir aucune valeur pour la Grèce, attendu qu'on ne saurait interdire l'entrée de notre propre maison, ni à nous-mêmes, ni à ceux que nous désirons y admettre.

Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, à qui copie de la note précitée de votre Excellence a été communiquée par moi, me fait savoir que le Gouvernement du Roi considère la décision prise par la Porte comme nulle et non avenue en ce qui concerne la Grèce.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) COUNDOURIOTIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 89.

Server Pasha to M. Coundouriotis.

Le 25 Septembre, 1877.

M. l'Envoyé,

J'AI reçu la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le $\frac{29 \text{ Août}}{7 \text{ Septembre}}$ au sujet de la mesure prise par la Sublime Porte à l'effet de suspendre, durant la nuit, l'accès du Détroit de Prévéza, mesure que vous considérez comme portant atteinte aux droits qui découlent pour le Gouvernement Hellénique de sa situation de Puissance riveraine du Golfe d'Arta et des stipulations de l'Acte de Londres de 1832.

Je suis convaincu, M. l'Envoyé, qu'un examen plus attentif de la question qui a éveillé les susceptibilités du Gouvernement Hellénique lui démontrera que la Sublime Porte n'a point excédé par la mesure précitée les prérogatives qui lui appartiennent comme propriétaire des deux rives du détroit.

Le Gouvernement Impérial reconnaît, comme il a toujours reconnu, le droit pour les bâtiments Grecs de franchir librement le Détroit de Prévéza, soit à l'entrée, soit à la sortie du Golfe d'Arta, ainsi qu'il a été établi par une stipulation spéciale de l'Acte de 1832; mais il constate, en même temps, que les Puissances garantes, en laissant à l'Empire Ottoman la propriété du promontoire de Punta, ont pris soin de déclarer que le but de cette disposition spéciale était de permettre à la Sublime Porte de compléter la défense de Prévéza et de mieux garantir la sécurité de son commerce. Cela suppose évidemment que la possession des deux rives doit comporter l'exercice d'une certaine autorité sur le passage, autrement la concession eût été sans objet et serait, dès lors, tout à fait illusoire.

Cette autorité implique et comprend un droit de police égal à celui que chaque Etat exerce dans ses propres eaux, et la Sublime Porte n'a entendu faire et n'a fait en réalité qu'une application naturelle et logique de cette règle, en limitant par une mesure de prudence, d'ailleurs momentanée, l'accès du détroit aux heures du jour, où la surveillance peut s'exercer efficacement. Lui dénier cette faculté dans les circonstances présentes, serait, je le répète, lui enlever le seul avantage que les Puissances ont voulu lui assurer, en maintenant dans le domaine de l'Empire le promontoire de Punta.

Permettez-moi d'espérer, M. l'Envoyé, que ces loyales explications suffiront pour justifier pleinement aux yeux du Gouvernement du Roi la mesure purement réglementaire et de simple police que la Sublime Porte a portée à votre connaissance, par sa Circulaire du 25 Août, et qui laisse absolument intact le droit de passage par le Détroit de Prévéza stipulé en faveur des bâtiments Grecs.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SERVER.

No. 90.

Mr. Lüwy to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 10.)

Anglo-Jewish Association, 160, *Portsdown Road*, W.,
November 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's communications, dated the 26th and 29th October, and the 5th November, respecting the survivors of the massacres in the Kyzanlik district who had found their way to Bucharest, and had there been assisted to return to Turkey.

The President and the Council fully appreciates the great advantage they have derived from the promptitude and benevolence with which your Lordship has aided them in their endeavour to do justice to the distressed victims of the war, and they have desired me to convey to your Lordship their most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

It deserves to be stated that, as one of the beneficial results of the information your Lordship has been pleased to obtain for the Anglo-Jewish Association, some of its members have been enabled at once to procure donations exceeding 470*l.*, a sum which was needed to assist the 337 refugees to return from Bucharest to Turkey, viâ Hungary and Austria.

The grateful acknowledgments conveyed to your Lordship take, therefore, a very wide range.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. LOWY, *Secretary*.

No. 91.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 478.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 9, 1877.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Moukhtar Pasha telegraphs to-day that the Russians, having attacked the fortifications called Azizie, were repulsed with heavy loss, the trenches being filled with their dead; the Turks pursued for an hour and a half, and fighting still continues.

Raouf Pasha reports from Shipka that a heavy cannonade, lasting four hours, did considerable damage to the Russian forts, especially to St. Nicholas.

No. 92.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 479.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 9, 1877, 9·40 P.M.*

PUBLIC notice has been given by the Porte that the Prize Court will meet to-morrow to deliberate upon the Greek vessels "Nea Soua Alexandros" and "Aghios Charalambos," which have arrived from Nicolaieff laden with wheat.

No. 93.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 9, 1877, 7 P.M.*

FOLLOWING sent to Therapia this evening:—

"Extremely probable that if Russian successes correspond with the sanguine hopes entertained here, Servia will endeavour to co-operate with Russian and Roumanian forces against Widdin, and also towards Sophia, and that Prince Milan may attempt this, and also proclaim his independence at once, on hearing of the capitulation of Plevna.

"Militia force hitherto collected in that direction inadequate for such a purpose. I believe that Porte has been alarmed too early, and that statement of your Excellency's received this day is not correct at present, and anticipates what is likely to happen later."

No. 94.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Macdonell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 10, 1877.*

INSTRUCT Consul to report in detail on statement contained in your telegram of the 5th.

No. 95.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 373. Confidential.)
Rome, November 6, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Layard's despatch No. 1162, Confidential, of the 2nd ultimo, of which a copy is inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 332, Confidential, of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have asked Count Tornielli why the Italian Government had made so much difficulty about withdrawing their Consul from Rustchuk.

His reply was that the Italian Consuls had a general order to remain at their posts, no matter what the circumstances, until they received formal intimation from the local authority or Commandant, addressed equally to all the other Consuls, that they must withdraw.

It was, he said, highly inconvenient having Consuls travelling about in all directions

without knowing where to communicate with them, and, moreover, it was the duty of Consuls to remain at their Consulate for the protection of their countrymen and the interests of their country, until their presence was no longer permitted by the authorities of the country. If the place of their residence was being bombarded, so much the worse for them; they were bound to remain all the same, until they received formal notice to leave, for otherwise, if every Consul was to be at liberty to quit his post whenever he thought it inconvenient to remain there, it might happen that he would leave just at the moment when his presence was most required. No general intimation to withdraw had been addressed to the Consuls by the Commandant at Rustchuk.

I observed that I believed all the other Consuls had left Rustchuk, and that the Italian Consul had been requested to do the same.

Count Tornielli said it was true the other Consuls had left Rustchuk; but there had been no general intimation to them to do so, and some of them had come back again. The Turks, he added, appeared to entertain suspicions against M. de Gubernatis, but they were quite unfounded and unjustifiable, and the Italian Government could not admit that their Consul should be subjected to exceptional treatment.

There had been, he said, some difficulty in making Count Corti understand this. He added, however, that M. de Gubernatis had ultimately received orders to leave Rustchuk and return to Rome.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 96.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 480.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 10, 1877, 6·45 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER has given me fresh assurances that if the Cretans will send Commissioners or Delegates to Constantinople to place their grievances before the Porte, he will undertake to satisfy them. If you would instruct Consul Sandwith to advise Christians to take this step, it might lead to good results.

No. 97.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 10, 1877.*

M. TRICOUPI'S language to me yesterday was most unsatisfactory. The Greek Government appears now determined to seize the first opportunity which they may think favourable to attack Turkey. I suspect Russia is inciting them to war.

I told M. Tricoupi that if Greece involved herself in hostilities with Turkey, he could hardly turn to England for protection, considering that such a policy on the part of Greece would be in direct opposition to the advice given by Her Majesty's Government.

Above sent to Mr. Layard.

No. 98.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 1285.)
Therapia, November 1, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 515 of the 13th September, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Sir Arnold Kemball on the subject of the treatment of prisoners by the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Mr. Layard.

Head-Quarters of the Turkish Army in Armenia,
Camp, Alaja Dagh, October 13, 1877.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 25th ultimo (arrived to-day) I am bound to state my conviction that here, as in Servia, during the fight, no quarter has been given by either side.

With the Turks, individuals who have continued to escape observation until the firing has ceased have generally been spared to be well and kindly treated as prisoners, but their number has been few, not ten, within my knowledge, during the whole course of operations in Armenia.

That in the heat of action the wounded are slaughtered is therefore most naturally to be inferred from the results of every engagement in which the Turks have remained masters of the field, but such an inference is certainly unreliable and even misleading. The Russians habitually carry off their wounded and the killed also when practicable, and though they have scored but two successes during the campaign, and have never within my experience recovered lost ground; it is only in a repulse like that of Zewin that the probability can be assumed of their abandoning among the killed a few wounded whom they were unable to remove.

No comparison is admissible between the incidents of this campaign and those of wars in general. There has been no pitched battle; not a gun has been captured on either side. The operations have been exclusively confined to the attack and defence of entrenched positions; in no one instance has the defeated enemy been followed up, nor have the irregular horsemen employed on occasion to harass his retreat ventured to engage in close conflict with his cavalry, or to expose themselves for a moment to infantry fire. No opportunity, therefore, has occurred to the Turks of making prisoners in numbers, however inconsiderable, much less *en masse*.

In the general instructions issued by Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha to his officers (since printed), mercy to the wounded and prisoners after victory is strongly enjoined, and I have known his Excellency reward Circassians who have brought them into camp, though the individuals in the cases which fell under my notice were Lesghis and Mahomedans. The difficulty, however, may be conceived, admitting the desire of controlling and humanizing soldiers recruited from every corner of Asia, members of wild tribes which are constantly engaged in internecine warfare and trained from childhood to the obligations of vendetta. In Armenia the Turkish soldier has been guiltless of deliberate or cold-blooded atrocity, nor has he been at all implicated in the misdeeds of the Kurdish levies, whose services the Turkish authorities could not forego, yet whose conduct they were wholly unable to control. The Ottoman army is virtually without cavalry, and if the war be prolonged beyond the winter the Government will no doubt again have recourse to partizans, such as Kurds, Circassians, and Arabs, whose propensities to rapine and pillage is hardly to be restrained. The employment of such auxiliaries without pay is, of course, suicidal, but in a life-and-death struggle would seem to be unavoidable.

As above shown, occasions have been mostly wanting of proof of Russians slaughtering wounded Turks, or of refusing quarter to prisoners of war, but the Russians may prove the contrary by producing those of either category, who must have fallen into their hands in considerable numbers both at Tahir and at Bazarjid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

No. 99.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 97. Political.)

My Lord,

Bosna-Serai, November 1, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a very interesting despatch of the 28th ultimo, which I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, regarding the state of affairs in north-west Bosnia.

Your Lordship will perceive by this despatch that, although the country is in an unsettled and unsatisfactory state, there is no immediate prospect of any serious renewal of the insurrection. Your Lordship will also remark that Mr. Cooper inclines to the same

opinion as that expressed in my despatch No. 91, Political, of the 4th ultimo, that the return of the Bosnian fugitives at the present time is not to be desired, either for their own sakes or that of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Sir,

Banjaluka, Bosnia, October 28, 1877.

ON the evening on the 25th October I returned here after a fortnight's visit to the Sandjak of Bihac. I left Banjaluka on the 14th instant, and travelling viâ Pjedor and Novi, reached Bihac on the 16th, remaining there two days. I returned by Novi, Kostainica, and Gradischa. On the way to Bihac I remained two days at Novi, and on my return stayed a couple of days at Dvor, or Podove, in Austrian Croatia.

The state of affairs in the district of Bihac, which I visited, is deplorable, and I am afraid matters are not looking well in this sandjak, though, after the wretched towns of Bihac, Banjaluka looks prosperous, and the traffic on the road between Gradischa and Banjaluka is lively compared to its almost absence along the Turkish banks of the Una.

Early this month most conflicting rumours were current in Banjaluka as to renewed insurrection, and only two days before starting on my journey the Mutessarif told me that three bands, numbering some 100 men, had recently crossed the frontier near Kostainica, and were in arms in the Kozara hills. I made this report the subject of special inquiries, but could not find that it rested on any foundation. The Kaimakam of Pjedor had heard the report, but stated that the zaptiehs and soldiers, whose duty it would be to know if any fresh bands had appeared, distinctly denied that any such had lately come. The Kaimakam of Kostainica states that, so far from fresh robbers appearing near Kostainica, a few men had lately given up their arms; and in Austrian Kostainica I was also told that everything was quiet across the frontier in the immediate neighbourhood.

But on expressing a wish, a week after, to go from Kostainica to Banjaluka, I was earnestly requested to go by Novi and Pjedor, so as to avoid running any risk from robbers. On adhering to my request, it was settled that I should travel by Dubica and Gradischa, the road across the Kozara hills being considered too much exposed to robber attacks, and I did not feel justified in further pushing my request, as the journey through the hills would have necessitated a large escort. As it was, the authorities would not allow me to leave Kostainica without an escort, under command of a major, who accompanied me for some distance along the road, where the wooded hills close on the river.

From these and other precautionary measures taken by the Turkish authorities, I conclude that though no fresh bands of insurgents have recently appeared, the whole wooded and broken districts of the Kozara and Peszara hills are still infested by the robbers, a band of whom burnt the Ivanjska railway station in August.

At noon I found the town in a miserable plight; the inhabitants were living in nightly fear of the insurgents, some 200 of whom were assembled all the summer on the frontier near Topola. This band had made frequent raids for cattle on both banks of the Una, fired on small parties, and generally kept the country from Novi to Otsher in a very unsettled state. The leader, Trivo Ameliza, is an ex-Zaptieh, said to be a man of determination, and not brooking interference with his orders. The insurgents only numbered some 200 to 250, but, from the number of Bosnian refugees in the Bezick of Dvor Ameliza, was credited with the control of 2,000 men.* Arms, ammunition, and spirits were smuggled from Austria, nor was money wanting, obtained, it is believed, through the agency of Slav Committees sitting in Agram and Saibach.

About the 18th October Amelizn left this position, called Bresovaï, and, accompanied by some 200 men, moved north; the band halted for a couple of nights near the frontier, but have since disappeared. At Dvor (Podon) it was rumoured that, being joined by Babic with some Dalmatian insurgents, the band had moved towards Cajin; but yesterday the Mutassarif of Banjaluka told me that the Turkish authorities have reason to believe that

* In September 1877 there were 5,600 Bosnian refugees drawing subsistence from Austria in Dvor Bezick; of this number 2,500 were men.

[1720] B

Ameliza's men have gone to the Dalmatian frontier, where, near Kuin, a Russian is reorganizing an insurgent force out of the remains of Despotovic's band.

I visited the Bresovac position on the 22nd October. It is naturally very strong. The frontier line, in a re-entering angle near Zut, runs just under the crest of a high hill. The crest is in Turkish territory, and these hummocks on this crest were occupied by the insurgents, the Austrian frontier path forming their means of communication. The sides of the hill slope steeply to the north and south; on the east and west the boundary line runs along the crest of spurs, which connect the central hill with others of this broken district. The hill stands about 1½ miles north of the Una, between which the ground is very broken and wooded.

The view from the summit is most extensive, stretching over the country between the Kozara Hills and the Dinaric Alps, and completely commanding the Turkish posts on the low hills along the south bank of the Una. This position was occupied by a redoubt on the western hummock and shelter trenches on the other two. The redoubt was surrounded by a wattle fence some three feet high with spiked posts, the earth obtained from a trench being piled against the interior of the hurdle. It was not as neatly finished as Turkish work, and looked as if not lately intended for defence. The shelter-trenches were very small excavations. The men were accommodated in huts of birch branches and bracken, securely made and carefully kept; interiors were clean, and only one hut was damaged, where a fire had been left burning in front of the sick when the main body left. The sick (three men) had been taken into Austrian territory before I visited the place, which was then utterly deserted. Bresovac, besides being naturally strong, is still further protected, the tracing of the boundary line bringing the flanks into Austrian territory, and the village of Tut immediately behind secures the position from a direct artillery attack. The brushwood in front had been cut away, but the wood behind in Austrian territory was untouched. Water was obtained from a spring in a ravine in front of the redoubt. The well-beaten path (only a few yards) from the huts to the Austrian frontier track showed in which direction traffic usually went, nor were the foot-marks confined to men's boots, ponies' shoes were clearly traced in the ground. During the time Bresovac was occupied by the insurgents, an Austrian picket was kept within a-half mile, and now daily patrols are made along the frontier. But the hill being covered with close wood on the Austrian side, unless a change of sentries were extended along the frontier, it would be impossible to prevent people crossing. The Turks never attacked the position, and from its command-ing view the insurgents would have timely notice of any movement, and it was generally understood that on the approach of Turkish soldiers the insurgents would lay down their arms and retire into Austria.

Though this band of insurgents has been in Bresovac for six months, when I visited Dvor in July I could not hear of any disturbance on the frontier, and this may partly be accounted for by the fact that I only visited the Austrian side, and also that it is only within the last three months that the insurgents have been creating renewed trouble. Considering that the frontier of this Dvor (Vodun) district has been the site of insurgent action for some time, the frontier guard seems very small. The regiment (Austrian) of infantry quartered at Petrinia details those battalions for the duty, and these are distributed as follows:—

Head-quarters.—1 battalion, Dvor; 1 company, Topushw; 1 company, Beslinovac; 1 company, Tragon; 1 company, Dvor.

Head-quarters.—1 battalion, Kostainica; 1 company, Divusa; 2 companies, Kostainica; 1 company, Dubica.

Taking these companies at an average of 70 men, the number available to guard the frontier from Topusho to Dubica—about 60 miles—would be only 560 men. The frontier can be crossed at any point, and for 30 miles the only boundary is a narrow foot-path through a broken wooded country.

The Austrians watch all boats on their side of the Una, but the usual craft on the river is a dug-out, which can easily be hid amongst the trees.

As far as I could ascertain, the Turkish forces along the Una from Krupa to Dubica (45 miles) numbers some 1,200 men, distributed as follows:—

Krupa, 300; Otoka, 100; Novi, 300; Kostainica, 200; Dubica, 100; small posts, 200.

The frontier battalion finds the men from Krupa to Novi, whilst the garrison of Novi and other places is composed of Redifs and Mustafiz. The men are generally quartered in small redoubts.

The Turks have no troops north of the Una, east of Bastra, near Otoka, except in an old blockhouse near Ivainsko, which is held by a picket, so that the insurgents at Bresovac

are virtually masters of the strip of territory north of the Una, between the Grodina stream and the Austrian frontier. Both Ivainsko and Topola are destroyed.

Bihac is garrisoned by 3 companies Redif infantry and 1 company garrison artillery. The old walls are falling in ruins, but the gates are still closed at night, and a battery has been recently erected on the south-east bastion commanding the river-bridge and open country south of the town. But the town, situated on a plain commanded by high ground within easy range, could not hold out against artillery.

There are 2 Krupp mountain-guns at Krupa, 1 at Prjedor, and 2 at Bihać, besides some curious old pieces of artillery.

Along the western frontier of Bihac matters seem quieter, though a band of sixty insurgents, under Marinkovic, at Nebjne, halfway between Bihac and Kulen Vacuf, occasionally make raids for cattle; and near Untri Lapac smaller bands are at times the cause of trouble along the Turkish border.

On my return to Banjaluka, I heard that a small band, under the leadership of a Greek priest, are causing some anxiety in the neighbourhood of Prujavor, between here and Brood.

From the above it will be seen that the only serious insurgent gathering was near Novi, but the disturbed state of the country generally is shown by the military posts along the principal roads, the necessity for escorts, and the precautions taken against sudden attack at Bihac.

Troops are being withdrawn from the Sandjak of Bihac and sent to the Drina; three battalions moving on Bjilina and Tuzla have passed through here during the last week. There seems to be a general concentration of troops on the Servian frontier, and their withdrawal from Bihac is looked upon with great dismay by the authorities, who had already had their hands fully occupied in trying to make head against the robber bands, and who now see themselves without means of checking the increased disorder which is spreading in every direction. The march of troops for Herzegovina, followed by this call for men for the Drina frontier, whilst it weakens the Turkish garrison, naturally elates the insurgents. A month ago the insurrection seemed dying out, now it seems burning up again without head, and in a desultory manner, but at the same time in a way which will seriously interfere with internal order during the winter, and effectually destroy all chance of compromise between the insurgents and the authorities.

The aspect of the country visited during the last fortnight is sufficiently miserable without the further horrors of guerilla warfare.

From Ivanjsha, near Banjaluka, to Bihac, except round Kozarac, Prjdon, Blajaj, Novi, between Otoka and Krupa, the country is an absolute waste, villages destroyed and fields untilled. Everywhere there are traces of former industry, but now, except in the places mentioned, the country is running wild. The towns look even more wretched, as the clumsy attempts of the Moslems to repair their houses have only made the buildings look like ruins. In their flight the Christians have carried away skilled as well as agri-cultural labour. I was unable to visit the country north of the Una, but I am told a happier state of things exists there owing to the population having been chiefly Moslem, who farmed their own land, living under an organization similar to that formerly existing in the Austrian military frontier, and recent troubles have naturally not interfered so disastrously with such a district.

The Latin population has remained in Bihac, but its numbers are comparatively small, the great mass of the Christians being members of the Greek Church. These mostly fled during 1875 and 1876, but they have continued crossing the frontier in small parties ever since the outbreak of the insurrection. The number per month entering the Austrian Bezirk of Dvor had come down to seventy in July this year, but since then it has been steadily increasing, and between the 1st and 18th October over 300 crossed the frontier.

I was present at Dvor when seven families were examined by the Austrian authorities. With one exception the families were not badly off. One had bought two cows, another a pony, &c. They came from different parts of the Sandjak of Bihac, and though they did not complain of any acts of cruelty, stated their lot was a hard one, and the Turks told them they could go to Austria if they liked. Only one man had been robbed of a cow. They had been working during the summer, but the Boys could not support them during the winter, and in the present disturbed state of the country their life would be a happier one in Austria. One family was represented by two brothers, who calmly confessed to having left their families. These two men were bad-looking scoundrels, and from their story I doubt not they been with the Kozara robbers during the summer, and the cold weather had now driven them to seek shelter in Austria.

It is a curious thing that all these people should have come to Dvor (Podon). Some

came from distant parts of Bihac, when other Austrian frontier villages were nearer. At Lavalje, near Bihac, and at Dubica there has been no late increase in the number of fugitives, though in the latter place I was told they had never ceased dropping in by twos or threes since the outbreak of the insurrection two years ago.

From Dubica to Gradischa the banks of the Una to Sark—fertile soils—are deserted except near Nakova, the rich fields overgrown with reeds and the houses in ruins. The Bosniac houses being only of wattle and mud or sun-burnt bricks, their ruins are soon scattered, and it many places it has now become difficult to find traces even of once flourishing villages.

The effect of this desolation is telling forcibly on commerce. The proprietors are almost ruined, and in the absence of money the traders find no purchasers for their goods. The war is also pressing heavily on the Moslem population, who, in addition to having to send their sons to fight, have, in the absence of half the population, to find conveyance for the transport of troops and Government stores. The frequent calls to arms are still further worrying the people, and the zaptiehs on the march now having to live in Moslem houses instead of Christian villages, is another trouble the Moslems had not before experienced. So heavily is the present state of things weighing on them, that I heard of two Prjador Moslems who had got rid of their property and brought their families into Austria intending to settle. But I believe that theirs is an exceptional case, and that the majority if not all of the Moslems will resignedly suffer on to the end, ready to sacrifice everything as long as the Sultan calls upon them to fight, though at the same time they would gladly welcome peace.

The Bosniac Moslem, though loyally fighting for his creed, is not favourably regarded by the Turk, and the officials in Bosnia are rarely natives, so that though the governing class is very much influenced by the native Moslem, I do not think that the latter would seriously object to another dominion over the change now made.

The harvest in what ground was cultivated has been good, and is sufficient to supply the present population, but there is none to spare.

I see from the public journals, and hear from various sources, that efforts have been made to induce the refugees to return to Bosnia. At the present moment, I venture to assert that the return of the refugees would be a great mistake.

The proprietors, in many cases, would have liked their labourers back a month ago, when the harvest was to be collected, but the continued flight of the Christians show that no great effort was made to induce even those still in Bosnia to remain.

The authorities naturally wish for the fugitives' return, as the resources of the country are seriously crippled and the revenue curtailed, besides, the exodus of a large population has naturally excited unfavourable comments on Turkish rule. But the Government in Bosnia is not a strong one, and besides is badly off, so any promises would have to be received with great caution.

The refugees are reported to be willing to return, but they do not move, and in Austria I heard they expressed very decided opinions not to return until Moslem supremacy had ceased in Bosnia.

The refugees have not everywhere earned for themselves good names. They are accused of being idle and to prefer existing on charity to working for their livelihood. But the Austrian authorities generally gave them a good character.

Whilst all thinking Austrians look upon the Bosnian emigration as a very serious tax on their country, it is doubtful whether the peasants, amongst whom the refugees are living, regard their presence as a burden. The refugees, Slav themselves, are everywhere amongst Slavs, and the national sentiment has been so fostered of late years that the Slavs look upon any present suffering as only the prelude of a brighter future.

But the presence of this large population, dependent to a great extent on charity, will have a serious effect on the frontier for some years to come, as the lazy predatory habits now imbibed will leave traces not easily eradicated. But, taking a higher view, it may be hoped that, if the present generation be not improved by their exile, the rising generation is being well taught and civilized by daily contact with Austrian life. And should happier days be in store for Bosnia, and the Christians allowed a share in her future government, the experience now being gained in many a Croatian and Slavonian school will bear proof to the benefits of civilization, and it is to be trusted may make some return to the charity of Austria, who is now supporting in Croatia and Slavonia alone some 50,000 Bosnian refugees.

Whatever may be the current reasons for or against the return of the refugees, I look upon such a step now as a mistake.

During their two years' stay in Austria they have learnt to look to charity when in want, have got out of the way of hard work, and look upon themselves as an injured

people. Their return to Bosnia at the beginning of winter, when there are no houses to shelter them from the inclement weather, would only cause distress, which the sufferers would not fail to attribute to Turkish mismanagement.

Any work they could do at this advanced season would not repay the cost of their keep, and in the absence of work it is more than probable that the men would take to the woods, and join one or other of the numerous robber bands which are now infesting the country, and which the withdrawal of the troops, and the approach of winter, will make it more than ever difficult for the authorities to suppress.

Were the Turkish Government firmly established, and an efficient organization existed for looking after the refugees on their return, or were there native charitable societies ready to lend a helping hand, the question might bear a different aspect. But, as matters now stand, with Montenegro overrunning the Herzegovina, war threatening with Servia, the insurgents causing anxiety in the north-west, robbers infesting the country in every direction, whole districts depopulated, trade at a standstill, money scarce, and winter coming on, I consider the return of the fugitives would only increase the present disorder. The refugees would, at the best, be left to shift for themselves, and the inevitable consequence would be death from exposure and famine; for it must not be forgotten that though the food-supply is sufficient for the present population, there is none to spare, and in the absence of roads or railroads, no large quantity can be brought rapidly into the country.

In conclusion, I beg to draw your attention to the civility with which I have been everywhere received by both Turkish and Austrian officials, and to the warm hospitality which the Moslem Slavs were ready to offer an Englishman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 100.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 12.*)

(No. 98. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, November 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, in consequence of the evacuation of the prisons of Vidin, the convicts from this province are now being brought back here. The Christians are consigned to prison to complete the term of their respective sentences, but the Mussulmans, no matter what their crime, are forthwith incorporated in the regular army. Among these latter I may mention two men who were convicted little more than a year ago of the murder and robbery on the high road, about 15 miles from this, of a Turkish military officer.

I need hardly remark to your Lordship the bad impression produced here by this act of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 101.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 12.*)

(No. 48 Confidential.)
Tunis, November 5, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 44 of the 15th of October, I have the honour to state that the Bey has informed me, through his Prime Minister, that his Highness has decided to send to Constantinople four or five battalions, about 4,000 men, with a field battery, in compliance with the Porte's requisition, and in fulfilment of his obligations towards his Suzerain.

Owing to the penury of the Treasury, the Tunisian Government has considerably diminished the numerical strength of its regular army; but since the Ottoman Government has undertaken to bear the expenses of the transport of the troops and of their maintenance whilst serving in Turkey, the Bey has ordered that the contingent should be formed of the youngest and most robust men, and that the old and discharged soldiers should replace them during their absence for local service.

I enquired of the Prime Minister whether it would not be possible to procure recruits or volunteers from the Arab tribes, but his Excellency replied that, with regard to those who wished to volunteer their services, they were free to proceed to the seat of war; but that were the Government to attempt a conscription among the Bedouin Arabs, it would lead to an insurrection, and open the door to foreign intervention.

So soon as the accoutrements, which have been ordered, are ready, the Bey will telegraph to the Porte to send the transports for the conveyance of the troops to Constantinople.

The decision arrived at by his Highness is not yet known to the public, but he expects that, so soon as some of the foreign Agents become acquainted with it, they will renew their previous remonstrances against a resolution that is at variance with the advice and views of their Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 102.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 602.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 7, 1877.

A RUSSIAN professor, Illovaisky, a noted Slavophil, was lately arrested by the Austrian authorities in Galicia, and escorted by Austrian gendarmes to the Russian frontier.

This circumstance has caused much indignation among the Slavophil section of the Russian press, as your Lordship will see from the inclosed abstract by Mr. Michell.

I have reason to believe that the Slavophil fever which last year seized all classes of the Society in Russia has very considerably abated, and more especially in the higher regions of the Court and in official circles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Abstract of Articles from the Russian Press.

RUSSIAN SLAVOPHIL AGENTS IN AUSTRIA.—The recent arrest of Professor Illovaisky, of the Ministry of St. Petersburgh, as a Russian pro-Slav propagandist in Austrian Galicia, and his escort to the Russian frontier by Austrian gendarmes, has excited great indignation among the Slavophil section of the Russian press.

The "Moscow Gazette," "Russki Mir," "Novvi Vremya," "Petersburgh Vedomesti," &c., contained strong articles on the subject, and the proceedings of the Austrian authorities in regard to Professor Illavnisky are attributed to political animus against Russia. They are at a loss to understand why a Russian gentleman travelling with the sole object of prosecuting historical and archæological (?) researches relative to the Slav races should be treated with suspicion and ignominy by the Austrian officials.

In connection with this misadventure which befel the learned professor, may be noted the curious coincidence that Baron Osten Sacken, the Director of the Internal Department of the Russian Foreign Office, was likewise arrested a short time previously, during an alleged innocent botanizing excursion in the Carpathian Mountains, having incurred the suspicion of the local authorities of his being an emissary of the Russian Slav Committees.

The "Exchange Gazette" has drawn on itself the violent displeasure of the Russian Slavophil press for its strong denunciation, in a leading article, of such dangerous and mischievous proceedings on the part of the chief representatives of the great idea of Slav unification.

No. 103.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 605.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 7, 1877.

IN obedience to the instructions of your Lordship's despatch No. 379 of October 31, I have addressed a note to M. de Giers, of which I have the honour to annex a copy, submitting the claims of Messrs. Watts and Milburn for compensation for the loss of the iron lighter No. 6 of the Danube Tug and Lighter Company, which was taken possession of by the Russian military authorities at Flamunda in June last.

I have profited of the opportunity to call his Excellency's attention to previous claims of a similar nature which I had submitted to his Excellency in July and August last, and to which I have not yet received any reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

St. Petersburgh, November 6, 1877.

M. le Conseiller Privé,

HER Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, after consultation with the Law Officers of the Crown, has instructed me to submit to the consideration of the Imperial Government the claims put forward by Messrs. Watts and Milburn for compensation for the loss of the iron lighter No. 6 of the Danube Tug and Lighter Company, which was seized in the month of June last, together with its cargo, by the Russian military authorities at Flamunda.

In accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith copies of the protest of the agent of the Danube Tug and Lighter Company, and of the *procès verbal* of the Roumanian authorities with respect to the case in question.

I have further to request your Excellency to be so good as to furnish me with an early answer to the notes which I had the honour to address to your Excellency on the 20th July and 2nd August last, on the subject of the claims of the Danube Tug and Lighter Company for compensation for the loss of their lighters Nos. 5 and 11, and of their steamer "Annette," which latter vessel is now in the possession and service of the Russian military authorities.

The parties who have suffered these losses by military exigencies resulting from a state of war are not only thereby deprived of the reproductive benefits of trade, but are incurring daily loss from the non-payment of the capital representing the property of which they have been arbitrarily dispossessed.

I have consequently to request that your Excellency will cause the claims for indemnity of Messrs. Watts and Milburn to be taken into consideration with as little delay as possible, with a view to their early settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 104.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 482.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 12, 1877, 3·35 P.M.

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs is persuaded that Servia and Greece, urged by Russia, are making preparations for attacking Turkey, and is very anxious on the subject. He says that the Porte has learnt that it is the intention of the Russians to attempt to take or turn Orkanie, and march upon Sofia, when the Greeks and Servians would at once enter Turkey. Under these circumstances, the irregular troops cannot be withdrawn from Thessaly.

Greek Government have made peremptory demand on the Porte for release of Greek boat taken near Rhodes on suspicion of piracy, and for compensation. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has replied that the matter is before the proper Tribunal, and that until a decision is given such a demand is not justified.

No. 105.

Consul Carruthers to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Taganrog, November 5, 1877.*

SINCE the despatch I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 1st instant, No. 46, telegraphic information has been received by some merchants here of the Ottoman Government having granted free passage to all neutral vessels from the Azoff; no official confirmation of this intelligence has reached, nor are there any foreign ships now at this port; several Greek merchants are nevertheless sending off wheat by lighters, for transhipment at Kertch on board of vessels either arrived or expected shortly, for conveyance of said produce to Constantinople.

I am informed that the principal parties engaged in the shipments above referred to are M. Negroponte (for account of Zarify) and M. Mari Vagliano, for his Constantinople firm.

M. Mari Vagliano has quite recently returned here from Sevastopol, at which place he is said to have made arrangements for continuing shipments of grain during the approaching winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. CARRUTHERS.

No. 106.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 13, 1877, 4·15 P.M.*

I AM informed from a private source at Taganrog that the Russian Government has prohibited all shipments by vessels bound for or passing through Turkish ports.

Ascertain and report whether this is true.

No. 107.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sandwith.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 13, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

THE Grand Vizier has again assured Mr. Layard that if the Cretans will send Commissioners or Delegates to Constantinople, to place their grievances before the Porte, he will undertake to satisfy them.

You may recommend the Christians to take this step.

No. 108.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 13, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

YOUR language to M. Tricoupi on the subject of the attitude of the Greek Government towards the Porte, as reported in your telegram of the 10th instant, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 109.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 13, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

I HAVE authorized Mr. Sandwith to advise the Cretan Christians to send Delegates to Constantinople, to place their grievances before the Porte, as suggested in your telegram of the 10th instant.

No. 110.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 483. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 13, 1877, 2·15 P.M.*

I LEARN from good military authority that the position of affairs in Western Bulgaria is most critical. There is very great doubt whether Plevna can be relieved or Osman Pasha force his way out. The Russians are surrounding and menacing Orkanie, and the road to Sofia may be soon open to them. They are also preparing forces to cross the Balkans upon Adrianople. The Russian advance to the south of the Balkans would probably lead to the most serious consequences. A direct appeal to the Emperor is being again pressed upon the Sultan, and if there is no hope of mediation or intervention he may be compelled to resort to it, and may probably have to accept conditions which would be dangerous to our interests. Count Zichy says that Russia, besides demanding the autonomy of Bulgaria, north and south of the Balkans, and the destruction of the fortresses on the Danube, will insist upon the opening of the Dardanelles and the surrender of Batoum and a large part of Eastern Armenia, certainly including Kars and probably Erzeroum. I do not know what the grounds of his opinion may be.

I have communicated the substance of your telegram of yesterday to the Grand Vizier.

No. 111.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 93.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 13, 1877.*

YOUR despatch No. 277 of the 28th ultimo has been received, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your having communicated to M. Tricoupi the conciliatory language held by Server Pasha to Mr. Layard with regard to Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 112.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 95.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 13, 1877.*

YOUR telegram of the 10th instant has been received, in which you report the language which you held to M. Tricoupi, when discussing with him at a recent interview the attitude of the Hellenic Government towards the Porte, and I have to state to you that your language is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 113.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 713.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 13, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 10th instant, I have to state to your Excellency that I have authorized Mr. Sandwith to advise the Cretan Christians to send Commissioners or delegates to Constantinople to lay their grievances before the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 114.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 714.)

Foreign Office, November 13, 1877.

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 1276 of the 31st of October has been received, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are glad to receive the explanations contained therein as to the status and employment of the several British subjects stated by the Russian authorities to be serving in the Turkish army.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 115.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 715.)

Foreign Office, November 13, 1877.

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 1280 of the 31st ultimo has been received, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction that Vizirial orders have been sent to the authorities in Syria to treat the Bulgarian prisoners who are confined at Acre with humanity and leniency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 116.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 396.)

Foreign Office, November 13, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I am informed from a private source at Taganrog that all shipments by vessels bound for or passing through Turkish ports have been prohibited by the Russian Government, and I have to request that you will endeavour to ascertain whether this statement is true.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 117.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 11. Political.)

Foreign Office, November 13, 1877.

Sir,

I AM informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that the Grand Vizier has renewed his assurances that he will undertake to satisfy the grievances of the Cretans, if they will send Commissioners or delegates to Constantinople to lay them before the Porte. Under these circumstances I authorize you to advise the Christians to take this step, and I leave it to your discretion to select the best means of carrying out this instruction.

I am, &c,

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 118.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 140. Political.)

Scutari, November 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been informed, in a friendly way, by Prince Nicholas, by a message sent to me on the evening of the 30th, through his Secretary, that His Highness intends commencing at once active operations against Spuz and Podgoritza.

I was unable to telegraph this information to your Lordship and to Mr. Layard, as the Pasha refused to authorize the transmission of my telegrams, and I did not feel justified in communicating to his Excellency the nature of the notice that had been sent to me from Montenegro.

Within the last two days heavy artillery fire has been heard at intervals from the direction of Podgoritza; but the Turks state that the Montenegrins have been saluting, as they have done recently, in celebration of Russian victories.

The Turkish battalions in North Albania are being brought up to their full strength by this year's levy of men, and the recruits are arriving daily from South Albania and Thessaly.

Every preparation has been made at Podgoritza and Spuz for supporting lengthened sieges, and as the telegraph wires have lately been frequently cut by the Montenegrins, stations have been established on the mountains for communicating by flash-signals during the night.

I have reason to believe that the Montenegrins hope to gain a footing near Hehn, and thus completely cut off Podgoritza and Spuz from their base of operations at Scutari.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 119.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 272. Political.)

Bucharest, November 6, 1877.

My Lord,

VICE-CONSUL DIMOS reports to me from Craïova that defensive works are being thrown up round that town, the utility of which is more than questionable; but it would seem that the Moldo-Wallachian Government cannot divest itself of the apprehension that the Ottoman troops may execute hostile incursions across the Danube in the course of the winter.

Mr. Dimos also reports that the Roumanian forces at Kalafat are being reinforced, chiefly with men from the more recent levies of recruits and militia.

The accounts which reach me of the condition of the Roumanian forces are most pitiable; there is a want of everything requisite for an army, the strength is much reduced, and is now reported to comprise barely 20,000 of all arms and ranks, but I doubt much whether 15,000 effectives could be produced under arms.

The 4th division, the first which occupied Nicopoli, is now reduced from 8,000 to 3,000 effectives.

The above is the division which suffered so severely in the last unsuccessful attack on the Turkish position, and had taken part in every engagement since the commencement of the participation in the campaign by the Moldo-Wallachian forces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 120

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 485. Very Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, November 13, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador at Vienna has telegraphed to the Porte that Count Andrassy has declared to him that Austria will not depart from her neutrality even should Servia take part in the war, which he did not consider imminent, but as depending upon an important Russian victory.

Austria would only consult her own interests, and could not offer mediation unless applied to directly and formally by one of the belligerents. Porte has telegraphed to Ambassador, to the effect that he is to state to Count Andrassy that after the repeated assurances given by him and Count Zichy that Austria will not allow the Russian forces to enter Servia in order to attack Turkey, nor permit Servia to take active part in the present war, the Porte has been painfully disappointed in receiving the above communication from its Ambassador, and that as there exists a kind of identity of interest between the two countries in the present instance, the Turkish Government had fully relied on

energetic action on the part of Austria in the event of Servia again attacking Turkey, or the Russians crossing into Servia for that purpose. As far as I know, Austria never gave assurances that she would interfere to prevent Servia from attacking Turkey.

This information comes to me from a very confidential source, and should not be communicated to Mustuis Pasha.

No. 121.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 14.)

Bucharest, November 14, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FROM Colonel Wellesley, dated Poradin, 11th instant:—

"(Secret.)

"The fall of Plevna appears inevitable within a few weeks, unless a powerful army can be brought to its relief.

"Should therefore mediation be intended, I venture to suggest that the fall of that fortress would be the most favourable opportunity, as there is a strong party already endeavouring to induce the Emperor, who is himself peacefully inclined, to continue war until Turkey is crushed."

No. 122.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, November 14, 1877, 1·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Porte wishes to obtain information as to the whereabouts and state of health of Tevfik Effendi, son of Hafez Effendi of Scutari, a Sub-Lieutenant who was taken prisoner by the army of General Melikoff near Ardahan.

Endeavour to obtain the information required.

No. 123.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 394. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 14, 1877.

Sir,

THE German Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and I thought it desirable to state to his Excellency the intelligence conveyed to me in your telegram of the 5th instant, as to the passage of thirty railway waggons across the German frontier, near Königsberg, on the 30th ultimo, laden with gunpowder for the Russian army, and under charge of German artillerymen. In doing so, I told Count Münster that I mentioned the report as it had reached Her Majesty's Government, but that I did not wish the communication to be considered official.

Count Münster promised to make private inquiry as to the facts.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 124.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

Tehran, October 1, 1877.

(No. 145.)

My Lord,

ORDERS were received at the Russian Mission some days ago for General Franchini and the officers who are with him to return to Tiflis without delay. M. Zenoview, however, is anxious to retain General Franchini at Tehran for the present, and he has accordingly telegraphed in reply that the officers will leave as early as possible, but that he awaits fresh instructions as to whether the General's departure may not be postponed. The Grand Duke Michael has intimated to M. Zenoview that, if he desired it, the late Russian Commissioner at Constantinople for the Turco-Persian Boundary question would be sent to Tehran to replace General Franchini when he returned to Russia, but no reply

has yet, as far as I know, been received by M. Zenoview to his request that General Franchini should remain here for the present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 125.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

Tehran, October 3, 1877.

(No. 152.)

My Lord,

THE Persian Minister informed me some days ago that M. Zenoview had stated to him that it had been reported from Constantinople to London and St. Petersburgh that Persia was engaged in negotiating a secret Treaty with Turkey with reference to the present war, and had asked explanations. He was told by the Minister, in reply, that there was no foundation for the report, but a day or two later he sent a message on the same subject, without the knowledge of the Foreign Minister, through the Ameen-el-Moolk, one of the functionaries of the Court, to the Shah direct, and received through the same channel an assurance from His Majesty that the rumour was without foundation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 126.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

Tehran, October 3, 1877.

(No. 154.)

My Lord,

THE question of permission being granted by the Persian Government for the purchase and exportation of provisions from Persia for the use of belligerent armies in Russia and Turkey has been for some time under consideration of the Shah's Government.

The Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, having in view the present straitened condition of the army under Ismail Pasha, has strongly urged the permission being granted, while the Russian Legation objects to that being done on the ground that it would be a breach of neutrality. I have been in communication with the Persian Minister on the subject, and he has determined, before giving a definite answer, to again consult both Legations after he has intimated to M. Zenoview that, if the prohibition is established in Azerbaijan, it will be held applicable to exports from Astrabad and Mazandran by the Caspian to Russia.

The Persian Government are anxious to profit by the sale of provisions to both parties, but they would probably forego the pecuniary advantage which would accrue therefrom, rather than run the risk of giving what might be considered by Russia a ground of offence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON

No. 127.

Consul Abbott to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

Tabreez, October 2, 1877.

(No. 19.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, respecting the movement of the Persian camp from Diryshk to the town of Khoi; the frequent visits of Russian agents to that camp and to districts on the frontier; the impression produced upon the Persians in this province by the recent Turkish victories, and the apparently favourable opportunity which the present crisis in the campaign affords Persia of detaching herself from Russian influence, as a preliminary step to her forming an alliance with Turkey.

I do not attach any importance to the rumour, said to be current at Khoi, respecting the ultimate destination of the Persian troops. Such a report might have carried some

weight with it at the commencement of the present year, when Persia believed Russia to be an invincible Power, beneath whom Turkey would be speedily crushed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Consul Abbott to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

Tabreez, September 21, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Sahib Divan is still at Khoi, and that the Persian camp has been moved from Chemen Diryshk to that place, the motive assigned being that pasture is becoming scarce at the former camping-ground, and that Khoi affords better capabilities for feeding the troops.

The frequent visits of the secretaries of the Russian Consulate to the Persian camp since its formation, as well as to Salmas and Khoi, and of Russian emissaries to Makoo, on the frontier of Bayazid, are facts which I deem it my duty to bring to your Excellency's knowledge.

There can be little doubt that Russia would view with satisfaction a rupture between the Persian and Turkish frontier authorities; and considering the signal reverses her armies have encountered in Asia as well as Europe, it does not seem unreasonable to suppose that, as a last resource, she may again turn her attention to Persia, and if she could secure the latter as an ally, endeavour to embarrass Turkey on the frontiers of Koordistan.

I am not in a position positively to assert that such a scheme is contemplated by Russia, but I apprehend that it would be as well not to beat together unprepared for a contingency which would facilitate Russian aggression in the Euphrates and Tigris valley.

On the other hand, the repeated victories gained by the Turks in their struggle with Russia—whom Persia feared on account of her supposed strength, and whose hollow professions of friendship Persia was obliged to reciprocate—have produced an impression upon the Persians in this province altogether favourable to their Ottoman neighbours; and this impression is probably not confined to Azerbijan. A Russo-Persian alliance would therefore now be difficult of attainment, but the present moment might not be an unpropitious one for Persia and Turkey gradually to develop a policy having for its ultimate object an alliance between the Sovereigns of these two Mahommedan States.

The ascendancy acquired by Russia in the provinces of Ghilan, Mazanderan, and Astrabad—and which the possession of the Caspian enables her to maintain—ought to be checked before it extends to this side of the frontier. The fact that such an ascendancy would imperil the existence of Persia, and be injurious to the interests of Her Majesty's Empire in India, might justify the expediency of our turning to advantage the present crisis in the war, by inducing Persia to effect a change in her policy.

To divert the Persian Government from forming any alliance with Russia, and to encourage them rather to seek for one in Turkey, may become difficult or impracticable at a later period of the campaign; Russia's present moment of weakness being Persia's best opportunity for acquiring strength.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

P.S.—I am informed that the Persian camp at Khoi is composed of 7,000 infantry and the same number of cavalry; but I think these numbers have been exaggerated.

A rumour prevails at Khoi that the Persian troops will eventually proceed to Erivan, to co-operate with the Russians against Turkey.

W. G. A.

No. 128.

Consul Abbott to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

Tabreez, October 3, 1877.

(No. 20.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Turkish Consul-General, Behdjet Effendi, having been instructed to superintend the purchase of food supplies in this province and their transmission thence to Bayazid, sent his Secretary to Khoi to confer with the Sahib Divan upon the subject.

As soon as my Russian colleague was apprised of this, he also dispatched a Secretary upon the heels of the Turk to the same spot, to represent to the Deputy-Governor that if he sanctioned such a proceeding it would constitute a breach of neutrality on the part of Persia.

The question having been referred to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, his Highness has interdicted the local authorities from furnishing supplies to either of the belligerent States, upon the ground that these supplies are indispensable for local wants.

From intelligence which has reached me, it appears that Behdjet Effendi still hopes to be able to attain his object. The argument adduced by the Turks is that, as Russia since the commencement of the war has been frequently supplied with provisions and beasts of burden from the same source for the use of her armies in Asia Minor, she cannot, with any show of reason, charge Persia with committing a breach of neutrality in the present instance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 129.

Consul Abbott to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

Tabreez, October 5, 1877.

(No. 21.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that my Turkish colleague, Behdjet Effendi, has communicated to me a telegram addressed to him by the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, stating that the Persian Ambassador at Constantinople had informed the Porte that the Azerbijan authorities had recovered the whole of the property plundered some months ago by Persian Kurds from the Ottoman district of Albakh, and had restored the same to the Turkish Armenians who were the victims of those depredations. In the same telegram, the Chargé d'Affaires inquires of Behdjet Effendi how far he can corroborate the Persian Ambassador's statement in this respect.

Before answering this communication, my colleague was desirous to ascertain whether the information received by me on this point tallied with the reports which had reached him, to the effect that a very small portion of such plunder had been restored to its owners.

To this I replied in the affirmative, and added that I further regretted to say that the Persian Kurds who had plundered the property in question, brought the bulk of it afterwards to Persian territory and sold it there by public auction; and that I had reported these facts to the proper quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 130.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

Erzeroum, October 16, 1877.

(No. 78. Political.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of my despatch of the 14th instant, addressed to Mr. Layard, with its inclosures, giving details of the state of the country as regards the peasants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure 1 in No. 130.

Consul Zohrab to Mr. Layard.

Erzeroum, October 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose in original a petition (with translation) which has been presented to me by a deputation of the inhabitants of the district of Khighi, setting forth in few words their straitened position, and asking for protection.

I also inclose the statements of certain villagers made to the Rev. Mr. Cole, American missionary here, which bear strongly on the present state of the inhabitants of this province generally.

It is quite useless my making representations to the authorities here, as they can do nothing to alleviate the suffering of the people. They have to find food for the army, and this they can do only by taking whatever the people possess; any representations from me, therefore, could carry no other meaning than that the army must starve to save the peasants.

Relief can come only from the capital, and it would be easy for the Government to get grain and cattle sent into this province from the more distant provinces which have not been ruined by the presence of contending armies. The people could not do this, as, besides being without money and means of conveyance, the country is so unsafe from Kurds, Circassians, and deserters, that, had they the means, they would not dare to go any distance to purchase food.

I have spoken with the heads of the Christian churches here on the subject; from all I have heard the same statement, that if the Government does not come to the aid of the people, there will be famine this winter.

Whether the Government can be induced to come forward I cannot, of course, say; I can only state that if the provincial authorities are left to act, they will think only of the army, for which they will take by force every morsel of bread from the people.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure 2 in No. 130.

Petition addressed to Consul Zohrab.

Most honourable Sir,

WE the Undersigned in a most earnest petition desire to make known to your Honour our lamentable condition, in order that through sympathy for our painful condition, you may so present the matter to Government as to gain its attention to the straitened circumstances in which we its subjects are situated in the Ozghi district, pressing most bitterly on the inhabitants of the whole region.

On the one hand disease has cut off our cattle, so we cannot plough our fields; while on the other we have not seed sufficient to sow them, if they were ploughed, as the harvest is very light.

Hence famine is surrounding us, and that especially as the roads are shut up from danger of the Kourds, so that we cannot bring wheat from other parts. In view of these things we appealed to the local Government begging some abatement of taxes, or at least that the little wheat we have be not carried off to Erzeroum, but all to no purpose.

Signed by 98 names, including Armenian, Protestant, and one influential Turk.

Inclosure 3 in No. 130.

Notes respecting the Ozghi Region.

1. A TURK, Ynsuf of Zermaka village near to the Khasabeh, testifies: "I come not for myself as I have money, so I can live, but I wish to appeal in behalf of the poor. In our village of 100 houses not twenty have preparation for winter while the remainder are partly and in one case wholly wanting. As for us Turks, ten or twelve houses in our vicinity, we can go out and in and have better; but the Christians are beaten and have not that chance to help themselves. We beg that if we must sell what animals the cattle disease has left us, and even the clothes from our backs to pay the taxes, the Government spare us our wheat that we die not of hunger."

2. Horor, village near by, has 120 houses and all are poor. The constant tramp of soldiery through the place has stripped the place. They had not an ox left to thresh their grain, nor had they to do it with horses and mules.

3. Vartan, of Tenran village, testifies: "Of our 200 houses not more than fifteen have preparations for the winter. The taxes are heavy upon us. Some have hired money to pay them and are in debt to the amount of 10,000 piastres. Our animals are sick and dying, and we have no seed to sow our fields."

4. Nicoghos of Khasdeh testifies: "Three hundred or more houses, of which 100 are Turks. The latter are poor for the most part. Their sons have gone to the war, and they could not cultivate what fields they had. They also have no seed to sow. The harvest in all the region has been light for want of rain. In many cases they did not get their seed back from the harvest; cattle-disease is general in the region. If the Government does not spare us the little which we have, famine must break in upon us."

No. 131.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 79. Political.) *Erzeroum, October* 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of my telegrams of the 15th, 16th, and 18th instants to Mr. Layard, reporting the very important events of the past three days.

On the 14th instant a messenger reached me from Sir Arnold Kemball with a packet for Mr Layard: by this time I had only a few lines from Lieutenant Maitland Dougall, but no information whatever as to the issue of the contending armies; but by this messenger, a zaptieh, the intelligence I had forwarded in my telegram of the 13th instant was confirmed, and from him I heard that cold and want of proper food were fast breaking the spirit of the Turkish troops. Hussan Pasha to-day very frankly told me that the troops under Mukhtar Pasha had been suffering severely, for besides being without proper clothing, they have had no fuel with which to cook their food or warm themselves.

The fatal intelligence conveyed in my telegram of to-day reached me yesterday afternoon; it was, however, of such a serious nature, that I did not think myself authorized in communicating it till I had fuller details which were not wanting to-day, though the authorities tried to throw doubt on all of them when I appealed to them.

I called on the Acting Governor and on Hassan Pasha to-day, and asked them whether I was justified in believing what had been related to me. They both assured me that the real news they had received was very doubtful, as it was the statement of only one soldier who had escaped to Kars, and they did not place faith in it. Their glosses and angles, however, betrayed them, and I felt certain they were trying to conceal what was believed by them to have really occurred. My information, however, comes from too sure a source to allow me to doubt its correctness.

So far as I can as yet connect events it appears that Ogliun Mehmet Pasha, who held the Kutchuk Yahuli, succeeded on the night of the 6th in withdrawing his army and getting his ten battalions into Kars, whether he succeeded in escaping those or not that or made prisoner I not known hence he was, it is reported disappeared, but when or how is not known.

Mukhtar Pasha made over to Hadji Rashid Pasha the command of the force at Abjah Dagh on the 15th, and proceeded to Kars, with what object is not known, but it is supposed to organize the retreat of his force to that fortress, nor is it known whether he went alone or took some battalions with him.

Immediately after his departure the Russians surrounded the camp at the Abjah Dagh, and Mukhtar Pasha, to relieve his beleaguered troops, marched out of Kars yesterday morning, with eighteen battalions, towards Vezir Kioi. Near that village he was engaged by the enemy, and a telegram received by the Government here from Kars at about 5 o'clock stated that the encounter was very severe, the losses were very heavy on both sides, but the battle continued. Some time after the dispatch of this telegram Mukhtar Pasha must have been beaten, for the next telegram reported the surrender of seven Pashas, with 35 battalions, 2 or 3 batteries, 3,000 or 2,500 cavalry, and a large number of transport animals, and that Mukhtar Pasha was in full retreat towards the Soghanlee Dagh with six battalions. Immediately after the receipt of this telegram, the wires were broken, and a telegram addressed to the Governor of Kars, asking for information about Sir Arnold Kemball was returned to me.

Y

Were these reports void of foundation or only partially true, the authorities here would not have adopted in hot haste the measures they have been taking to-day. Feizi Pasha (General Kollmann) was sent early in the morning to take command at the Deveh Boyounou Pass, nine miles from this; since dawn the authorities have been engaged in collecting, arming, and sending off to that position every man liable to service, and guns and ammunition have been transported thither. If the authorities were not well aware that Mukhtar Pasha's army no longer existed, they surely would not be so precipitate in arming the Deveh Bonyounou and trying to collect men for the works; nor would orders have been sent to Ismail Pasha to hasten to Erzeroum. That he will be able to retire, I doubt, that is, if the report is true that General Tergukasoff has received large reinforcements, and that a strong Russian column is in Kaghisman; should this report prove correct, it cannot be doubted that the division under the command of so utterly incapable a man as Ismail Pasha must inevitably be lost.

In justice to a brave army, in justice to able commanders, it is to be hoped that neither the Mussulman people nor the Turkish Government will adopt success as the criterion of prowess and ability. Though Mukhtar Pasha and his soldiers have been crushed, they still merit the gratitude of their country. The army has fought well and endured hardships with that patience and even cheerfulness which were they described would be regarded as gross exaggerations, and Mukhtar Pasha has exhibited rare abilities as a military commander. So long as his force was equal to the enemy he maintained his ground. He has now succumbed to overwhelming numbers, and in his defeat all right-minded men must respect and honour him.

The telegraphic wires were cut yesterday at about 7 P.M., and as the Russians were within nine miles of Kars it is probable that the fortress is already invested. What number of troops have been able to get in to defend it I am not able to state. Hassan Pasha assures me there are thirty battalions, but on what data he goes I cannot say, I fear it is a mere guess, and that anxiety and hope have led him to exaggerate eight or ten battalions into thirty. Ten days since I was told there were only four battalions there, and as Mukhtar Pasha has had since the commencement of this month to resist daily attacks, it does not seem probable he weakened himself to garrison Kars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure 1 in No. 131.

Consul Zohrab to Mr. Layard.

Erzeroum, October 15, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

HARD fighting Saturday and Sunday; results not known. Telegraph wires cut yesterday between Khorassan and Kars and between Olti and Kars. Russians hold Hadji Veli, Soobattan, part of Big Yani, and Kyzil Tepeh. Opposing forces very near each other; exposure, cold, and no clothing or fuel, causing much sickness in Mukhtar Pasha's camp.

Kars' hospitals crowded; many houses have been taken for sick and wounded, Erzeroum.

Inclosure 2 in No. 131.

Consul Zohrab to Mr. Layard.

Erzeroum, October 16, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

MUKHTAR PASHA entered Kars last evening, but whether alone or with troops not yet known.

Hard fighting since Saturday still continuing. Ten battalions under Capidan Mehmet Pasha cut off at Yagni Tepeh, and are surrounded by thirty-six Russian battalions. Desertion has been increasing greatly.

Communication between Mukhtar Pasha and Ismail cut off. Latter continues retiring. We have here only two half battalions left.

Inclosure 3 in No. 131.

Consul Zohrab to Mr. Layard.

Erzeroum, October 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THURSDAY, 18th, Kars, reported last night, before telegraph was cut, as follows:—

"The 10 battalions at Yagni succeeded in evading enemy on night of 15th; probably escaped to Kars, as Mukhtar Pasha left that place yesterday morning with 18 battalions, to rejoin force at Alajah Dagh. He was met by the enemy near Zevin, and, after hard fight, defeated, and is falling back rapidly on Erzeroum, with 5 or 6 broken battalions.

"The Aladagh force of 7 Pashas, 36 battalions, 8 or 9 batteries, and about 2,000 horse surrendered yesterday afternoon; 10 or 12 battalions escaped into Kars.

"No news of the General. I tried to telegraph last night to Governor of Kars, but the line was broken, and Kars must be already surrounded. Shall try to get intelligence of him during the day.

"Ismail Pasha is ordered to fall back on Erzeroum immediately, but 40 Russian battalions reported in Kaghisman will probably bar his way. Authorities here say they do not believe all this, as it is but the statement of one soldier who escaped, but I believe they wish to conceal. They are all utterly demoralized.

"Every available man sent this morning to Deveh Boyounou, with Feizi Pasha and some guns."

No. 132.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 80. Political. Confidential.)

Erzeroum, October 21, 1877.

My Lord,

THE last telegraphic communication with Kars consisted in a conversation carried on between the military Commandant there, Mehmet Fahim Pasha, and the Grand Vizier. Many questions were asked and answers given regarding the last battle; but the pith of the conversation lay in Mehmet Pasha's last words, which were to the effect that he had about 10,000 men, or 14 full battalions, composed of all classes and arms, for the defence of Kars; but the men were so demoralized and worn out that he could not hope to hold the fortress for any length of time, if, indeed, he could resist even a first assault. He then stated he must leave the telegraph, as the enemy were close at hand, and his presence in the batteries was urgently required.

The line was cut immediately after this, and since we have had no intelligence whatever from that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 133.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 81. Political.)

Erzeroum, October 21, 1877.

My Lord,

IT would be superfluous in me to attempt to give from reports any details of the battle in which Mukhtar Pasha's army was routed, now Sir Arnold Kemball, who was an eye-witness, is here to make an exact recital; I shall, therefore, confine myself to reporting to your Lordship the state of affairs at this moment, and the points occupied by the Turkish and Russian armies.

There is now no Turkish left wing, the six or eight battalions which, a short time since, were stationed about Olti, were withdrawn to reinforce Mukhtar Pasha and Ismail Pasha, and the Olti line was left quite unprotected. The Russian right wing, said to be composed of sixteen battalions, occupies positions between Ardahan and Penek, and could be turned either on Erzeroum or on Ardahan to oppose any column coming from Batoum or on to the Erzeroum-Trebizond road by way of Ispir.

The fate of the Turkish centre is already known. About 10,000 men are in Kars,

and ten battalions, numbering at most 41,000 men, under Mukhtar Pasha, are in a critical position in the Soghanli range of mountains between Panos and Yenikeui. Of about 40,000 men that formed Mukhtar Pasha's army only 14,000 can now be accounted for.

The Russian centre is moving forward. Yesterday a column advanced to Sarie Kamish, and the advanced guard had attained the summit of the Soghanli.

If the Russian centre numbers, as it is believed, over 80,000 men, it is very probable it will be divided into columns, one to invest Kars, one to attack Mukhtar Pasha, one to support General Tergukassoff, and one or two to march towards Erzeroum. That some such division has already been made the nearer reports which have come in here since the great disaster seem to indicate. Kars is invested. Russian camps have been seen at Beshe Ahmet and Sarie Kamish, while cavalry has penetrated to within twelve miles of Olti on the Kars-Olti road, and has also reached the summit of the Soghanli. A column is also reported as being in the Kaghisman district.

The Turkish right wing has received orders to fall back as rapidly as possible on Erzeroum, but as Cossacks were seen yesterday on the Tambourk hills, between Kara Kilisse and Bayazid, it is very probable that the report brought in yesterday by a Persian muleteer, to the effect that the Russians had cut off Ismail Pasha's retreat by advancing a column on to Tashke Tatak, will prove correct, in which case Ismail will have to meet with about eighteen battalions the attack of the Russian left wing under General Tergukassoff, which has also received reinforcements, and is in a position to assume active offensive operations.

The position of the Turks in Armenia has, through the defeat and dispersion of Mukhtar Pasha's army, become desperate, and if the Russians are active, not only will Ismail Pasha's corps be destroyed within the next day or two, but Erzeroum must fall into their possession in about ten days time. The line of Armenia now depends, not on the means of defence possessed by the Turks, for none exist, but on the celerity or slowness of the Russian movements. If they are rapid, Erzeroum must in a few days be in their possession; if they are slow, winter may for a time save this last bulwark of the Empire in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 134.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 82. Political.) *Erzeroum, October 28, 1877.*

My Lord,

SIR ARNOLD KEMBALL, being now here, I have ceased telegraphing to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople intelligence or military events and movements, and, instead, I communicate what I hear to Sir Arnold Kemball, who is in daily telegraphic communication with Mr. Layard.

Ismail Pasha, with his corps, left Kara Klisseh yesterday, and will probably reach the Delibaba Pass this evening. The number of battalions he brings with him is officially stated at thirty, but my inquiries lead me to believe he has only eighteen, numbering altogether not more than 8,000 men. He may have the skeletons of thirty battalions, which have been formed into eighteen battalions. Of cavalry he has hardly any.

The remnants of the Turkish army are to be collected as soon as possible at Kopri-Koi, where Moukhtar Pasha is hourly expected with his ten battalions which I have before reported by officers who have come from his camp do not muster more than 4,800 men. Of artillery he has twelve mountain guns.

Veli Pasha (Redhmann) is actively employed in arming the Deveh Boyunnun Pass. He has placed two batteries of field guns in commanding positions on the crests of hills, and he is rapidly throwing up such defensive works as he can with the few weak, disheartened men under his command, consisting of armed deserters, convalescents discharged from the hospitals, and the dregs of the Mustaphiz.

It is reported that ten battalions are on their way from Batoum and ten from Constantinople. Those from Batoum may reach in time to take part in the defence of Erzeroum, but those from Constantinople could not possibly come up in time to be of any use.

Of the Russian forces, the only authentic intelligence I have been able to communicate to Sir Arnold Kemball is that they were on the Milé Dooze yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 135.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 83. Political.) *Erzeroum, October 21, 1877, evening.*

My Lord,

INFORMATION reached me this afternoon that the Russians in large force had come into the Passin Plain, and had advanced as far as Khorassun. Moukhtar Pasha, with the remnant of his force, about 4,800 strong, has fallen back on Kupri-Koi.

The two battalions which have occupied Kupri-Koi were busily engaged this morning in loading and sending ammunition and stores back to this, and the soldiers were also getting ready to retire on the Deveh Boyunnun.

Regarding Ismail Pasha's present position, I have not been able to get intelligence; he was to have reached Dabar, at the entrance of the Delibaba Pass, this evening, but it is probable the forward movement of the Russians will have obliged him to change his route. His only chance of escape now seems to be by way of Khinnis: that is, by leaving the Delibaba Pass on his right and continuing west, and crossing the mountains into the Khinnis Pass: to do this, however, he must abandon his artillery.

Captain McCalmont's reports date up to the 21st instant. I inclose a copy of a telegram he inclosed for transmission to Her Majesty's Ambassador, giving brief details of the retreat of Ismail Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Consul Zohrab to Mr. Layard.

Erzeroum, October 21, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

McCALMONT and Trotter report from Georgher 21st October: Ismail Pasha retreated on night 16th to Zor. On 18th Russians advanced, whole force attacked our left and centre with artillery, but were silenced by our fire towards evening. Enemy subsequently retired. Same night, after destroying 500 boxes ammunition and other stores, army retreated, reaching Ippek Geolik next evening. Weather wet, roads in bad condition. Rearguard held defile south-west of Mussin against strong force of enemy's cavalry that afternoon. Army marched unmolested yesterday, and last night to this position at Georgher, four hours east of Kara Klissia. Four battalions, nine guns, detached from Ippek Geolik to Bayazid.

No. 136.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 66. Political.) *Trebizond, October 27, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 57 of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that in consequence of the orders issued by the Porte, at the suggestion of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, the Mutessarif of Samsoon has lately forwarded to Constantinople on board the Turkish steamer "Selamie," the three Abazian women who were kept there in sequestration, their husbands, and sundry members of their families.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 137.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 67. Political.) *Trebizond, October 27, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in consequence of orders from the Porte, fifty-four Russian subjects (out of about 200 living here) have been expelled from this town and Batoum.

Some of them had been ordered to leave altogether the Ottoman dominions, while some were allowed to continue to reside in Turkey, but not in sea ports; but they have all departed for foreign countries.

About half went to Greece viâ Constantinople. The other half of the expelled Russians (who, with one exception, are natives of this place), wishing to go to Russia, the Austrian Lloyd's steamer "Sphynx" was, by agreement of the belligerents, allowed to convey them two days ago to Fort St. Nicholas on the frontier.

A few Russian subjects, not expelled but fearing the same fate at a later period, as well as a few Greek subjects, who had affairs in Russia, availed themselves of the opportunity to proceed to that country.

Some of the expelled being accompanied by their families the total number of men, women, and children who departed amounted to 125. To these must be added two Russians (mentioned in paragraph the 5th of the inclosure in despatch No. 50 of the 31st August last), who, together with their wives (Abazians), their children, and two other Abazian children, thirteen in all, were allowed to return to Russia, as did another Abazian widow with two children who had been embarked in the "Sphynx" at Kerasound.

The greatest tranquillity prevailed at the departure of the expelled Russian subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 138.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 286.) *Athens, November 6, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my No. 272 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the newspaper "Ephimeris" of to-day announces the arrival at the Piræus of 200 cases of Gras rifles.

The whole Greek army is to be armed with the Gras rifle, and that weapon is now being placed into the hands of the troops instead of the Chassepôt and Milonas rifles, with which many of the corps have been till now armed.

I cannot learn that any definitive decision has been taken with regard to the reserves; the question is, I am told, at present being discussed by the members of the Government.

If a Russian army, however, advances across the Balkans, the Greek army will probably be increased rather than diminished.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 139.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 287. Very Confidential.) *Athens, November 6, 1877.*

My Lord,

SINCE I had the honour of addressing my despatch No. 284 of the 2nd instant to your Lordship, a conversation which I have had with a person who must be well informed as to military preparations in this country leads me to think that the policy of the Greek Government is now more really warlike than I was inclined to believe it was when I wrote the above-mentioned despatch. The person in question told me that certified camps were being formed in different parts of the country near the frontier; that all defiles through the mountains leading into Turkey were being fortified; that the engineers were busily

engaged in constructing roads to allow of artillery to pass up to the frontier; that the army was being rapidly armed with the Gras rifle, and that the other rifles (of which there must be a large number in Greece at present) would be distributed to the populations of the neighbouring provinces in the event of the Greek army crossing into Turkish territory; and finally, that he himself had made such private arrangements as would enable him to send his wife and children out of the country if hostilities were entered upon, which he evidently considered probable.

I am, moreover, told to-day that the Ministers were discussing the question of the reserve forces, and I have little hesitation in saying now, considering the position of affairs between the two belligerents, that the Government will decide not to allow any of the reserve forces or volunteers at present under arms to return to their homes, but rather on the contrary, to increase the forces. The officer also who some time ago was sent to buy horses in Italy is still absent, and I understand that more horses than those already purchased are required.

During the month of July last, as your Lordship is aware, there was considerable excitement in Greece owing to the rapid advance of the Russians; that excitement was abated by their defeat at Plevna, and by their, till now, subsequent want of success; but now that the tide appears to have turned, the Greeks are as excitable as they were before the first attack upon Plevna, indeed, perhaps more so, because, besides having the probable advance of the Slavs before their eyes, they are touched to the quick by the reports of atrocities in Thessaly and Macedonia, said to be committed by the irregular troops which the Porte has been ill-advised enough to send there.

As an instance of public opinion at the present moment in Greece, I may mention that a few days ago a meeting was held by a club or society at Athens called the "Adelphotys" (Brotherhood), which is now, I understand, in connexion with the society for the "National Defence." At this meeting three resolutions were passed to the following effect, viz., that the several heads of political parties should continue to co-operate with the Government for the accomplishment of the hopes of Hellenism; that military preparations should be more earnestly continued, and upon a wider basis, attention being especially given to the navy; and that the Chambers should afford all the means required for this object.

I had hardly thought it worth while to draw your Lordship's attention to the resolutions of this society, but I do so now, as I see that they have been supported in Syra, Ayrinion, Kalamata, Cythion, and other towns, thus showing that they to a certain extent represent the political feeling of at any rate a portion of the public in other parts of Greece besides Athens. I happened to mention these resolutions to M. Tricoupi last Friday, the 2nd instant, and I could see that he did not disapprove of their purport.

I cannot say, my Lord, that I think matters at the present moment are other than very critical. Firstly, the Greeks are still much hurt at not having been admitted to the Conference held some months ago at Constantinople; and I am told, upon good authority, that M. Tricoupi has instructed his diplomatic Agents to represent to the respective Courts to which they are accredited that Greece should be represented at the Conferences or deliberations for peace, whenever they may be held. I spoke to M. Tissot, the French Minister, upon this subject to-day, and his personal opinion appeared to be that the phase of affairs had changed since last year; that, in fact, there was now an "Hellenic question," which the Porte had been ill-advised enough to create (" avait été assez mal-adroite à créer "), by not preventing cruelties from being committed in Thessaly, and he appeared to think that a promise to the Greeks to have a representative at any future Conference (should one be held) for the settlement of the Eastern question, might perhaps prevent them from embarking in an adventurous policy.

There is another matter also which is causing much uneasiness here, and that is the fear that peace may be suddenly concluded, and that in that event nothing will then accrue to the benefit of the Greeks; and in touching upon this question I am anxious to make a correction in, and an addition to, my despatch No. 284 of the 2nd instant. I said in that despatch that I had recommended M. Tricoupi to be "patient," the exact words I used were "to wait," and he answered "Yes, but we may wait too long." This expression, I think, implies fear, that by delay all might be lost; and I am afraid that circumstances are now inciting the Greeks to try and obtain by force of arms that which they think they cannot obtain by a pacific policy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 140.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 289. Very Confidential.)

Athens, November 8, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches No. 268 of the 17th ultimo and No. 279 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I understand that, in the exchange of ideas which is reported to have taken place between the Government of Russia and that of Greece, the Greek Government, in putting forward pretensions to an eventual increase of territory, stipulated that the River Strymon to the east and the Balkans to the north, should form part of the new frontier line of Greece, and that the Russian Government would not concede this line of frontier; and I am further informed that the Greek Government asked for subsidies in money, which the Russian Government also could not agree to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 141.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 290. Confidential.)

Athens, November 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Photiades Bey informed me to-day that he thought that if the Russians made an advance upon Adrianople, nothing would prevent the Greeks from engaging in hostilities with Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 142.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 291. Very Confidential.)

Athens, November 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the French Minister, M. Tissot, called upon me this afternoon, and that I read to him portions of my despatch No. 287, marked very Confidential, of November 6, as I was particularly anxious to know whether I had rightly rendered the remarks which his Excellency had made to me, and which I have reported to your Lordship in my above-mentioned despatch.

M. Tissot said that I had expressed his observations correctly, and that I had, he thought, given a correct account of the present position of affairs in Greece, and he told me that he had to-day represented to his Government that his personal opinion was that it would be most desirable, in the interests of peace, that the Great Powers should take into their favourable consideration a request, should it be made by the Greek Government, that a Greek Representative be admitted at the Conference which may be held for the re-establishment of peace.

He told me that he had to-day seen Count Dubsky, the Austrian Minister, who had lately seen M. Tricoupi, and that M. Tricoupi had expressed to Count Dubsky the hope that war between Greece and Turkey might be avoided if Greece was admitted to a Conference, and if the Great Powers would promise that the "Hellenic" provinces of Turkey should be granted the same autonomy as might be secured to Bulgaria.

The question appears to be one of such importance at the present moment that I venture to recommend it most earnestly to your Lordship's consideration, and if M. Tricoupi speaks to me again on the subject I shall tell him that I have done so.

I fear that there is a strong element in favour of war in the Cabinet, and although the reported Convention between Russia and Greece is said not to have been signed, I am told that M. de Sahouroff, the Russian Minister, sees the King almost daily, and if it is in the interest of Russia to urge Greece to war, it is much to be feared that his influence may

prevail if the King and his Government think they cannot obtain by diplomacy what they consider to be due to Greece.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 143.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November* 15.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 1 *Novembre*, 1877.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-jointes en copie, pour votre information, les deux communications que j'ai adressées à M. Christich, relativement à des actes de violation et de déprédation commis par des bandes venues de la Principauté de Serbie.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SERVER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Server Pasha to M. Christitch.

Le 29 *Octobre*, 1877.

UN télégramme du Commandant de Novi-Bazar nous rend compte d'une rencontre qui a eu lieu dans les circonstances suivantes entre les troupes Impériales et une bande Serbe :—

Dans la nuit du $\frac{7}{19}$ de ce mois, trente Serbes environ ont dressé une embuscade sur une hauteur située non loin de Dogliboula dans le but d'attaquer le village de Grab. Quelques volontaires étant venus à passer par cette localité ont été aperçus par ces malfaiteurs qui ont fait feu sur eux. Au bruit des détonations un détachement de soldats s'est avancé sur le lieu de la lutte et a repoussé la bande sur le territoire Serbe.

Ce fait qui emprunte aux circonstances actuelles une gravité toute exceptionnelle, a produit sur la Sublime Porte une impression des plus pénibles. Je vous prie de faire immédiatement à Belgrade les communications nécessaires afin que des mesures efficaces et énergiques soient prises, tant pour la découverte et la punition des coupables que pour prévenir le retour de pareils actes.

Agréez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

Server Pasha to M. Christitch.

Le 27 *Octobre*, 1877.

DANS la nuit du $\frac{17}{29}$ Septembre dernier, vingt Serbes ayant franchi la ligne de démarcation, se sont introduits dans les maisons des nommés Radico, Milia, et Avram, habitants Chrétiens du village Lebovic (Sénidjé) et y ont enlevé tout ce qui leur est tombé sous la main.

Non contents des mauvais traitements qu'ils ont fait subir aux familles de ces malheureux, les agresseurs ont brûlé avec du charbon ardent et des baguettes rougies à blanc, les corps d'Avram et de son épouse, en les menaçant de tuer leurs enfants si à leur seconde visite ils ne leur procuraient des sommes considérables.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères prie l'Agence Princière de vouloir bien faire les communications nécessaires à Belgrade pour obtenir la découverte et la punition des coupables, ainsi que l'adoption de mesures propres à empêcher le renouvellement d'actes aussi odieux.

No. 144.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1287. Confidential.) *Therapia, November 1, 1877.*

My Lord,

I AVAILED myself of an opportunity to communicate to-day to the Grand Vizier and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, informing me that the proposal of the Porte to permit foreign vessels shut up in the Black Sea and Sea of Azoff to pass through the blockade, on condition that those laden with grain should sell their cargoes at Constantinople, had been submitted to the Law Officers of the Crown, and that Her Majesty's Government were of opinion that they could not properly be parties to such an arrangement, which would be opposed to the principle of the law of blockade, and that if the Porte were to act as was suggested the blockade would by law be at an end, and neutral vessels would be justified in treating it as at an end.

Both the Grand Vizier and Server Pasha saw the gravity of the step that they had been advised to take, and gave orders at once that the Iradé, which was about to be issued authorizing it, should be stopped. Great pressure has been brought upon the Porte by the Italian Government to make this concession, although, as I have informed your Lordship, in opposition to the opinion of Count Corti.

The Greek merchants at Constantinople, who are interested in the corn trade, have also done their utmost, through means which they are accustomed to employ, to induce the Porte to allow their ships to pass through the blockade.

Hobart Pasha informs me that M. Negroponte, Mr. Gladstone's correspondent, has offered him 2,000*l.* if he would not interfere with his ships, an offer which was indignantly refused, M. Negroponte being warned in addition that if one of his ships was caught, provided with a pass, it would be at once seized, and the pass treated as a forgery.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 145.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1288. Very Confidential.) *Therapia, November 2, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram addressed by Server Pasha to Turkhan Bey with reference to abuses of neutrality arising out of the permission given by the Porte for the free navigation of the Danube above the junction of the Tiniok with that river. This telegram has been communicated to me very confidentially. I transmitted the substance of it to your Lordship to-day by telegraph.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Server Pasha to Turkhan Bey.

(Télégraphique.)

VOUS entretiendrez confidentiellement le Comte Andrassy de la navigation du Danube en amont de l'embouchure du Tiniok.

Vous lui rappellerez d'abord que la Sublime Porte, après avoir consenti à laisser libre cette partie du Danube, avait dû revenir sur cette tolérance, par suite des inconvénients qu'elle présentait, mais que sur les instances pressantes du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois, elle a de nouveau rétabli la liberté de navigation en amont de l'embouchure du Tiniok en se réservant formellement la faculté de retirer cette autorisation dans le cas où elle donnerait lieu à des abus évidents. Vous lui signalerez ensuite les faits qui sont à votre connaissance, tels que l'importation en Serbie, sur des navires Serbes, d'armes et de munitions achetées en Autriche, et la commission de planches ayant la même provenance, et qui après avoir été débarquées sur la rive Serbe sont immédiatement transportées sur la rive opposée et livrées aux Roumains ou aux Russes. Vous lui ferez remarquer qu'en ce qui touche les armes et les munitions, nous avons donné l'ordre à nos autorités de les arrêter à leur passage, mais que cette mesure, dont l'efficacité d'ailleurs n'est pas certaine, ne s'étend pas aux autres transports qui constituent une ressource précieuse pour nos ennemis.

Enfin, vous demanderez confidentiellement au Comte Andrassy quel est son sentiment sur ces faits, dont la gravité ne saurait lui échapper, et s'il ne croit pas que le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois se trouve engagé, soit à prendre lui-même des mesures propres à y mettre fin, soit à reconnaître que dans les conditions exceptionnelles où se trouve le Gouvernement Impérial vis-à-vis de la Serbie, il y aurait lieu de suspendre temporairement la navigation dans cette partie du fleuve.

No. 146.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1294.) *Therapia, November 3, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Wood's despatch to your Lordship No. 42 of the 10th ultimo, copy of which he transmitted to me, I have the honour to state that I have been assured at the Porte that General Hussein's visit to Constantinople is not connected with political affairs, but is purely private. I have made other inquiries on the subject, and have failed to learn that he is charged with any political mission. His reception here has been courteous and civil, and, I believe, nothing more.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 147.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 1296. Confidential.) *Therapia, November 4, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received from a very confidential source copy of a report which has been drawn up for the Porte by its Legal Advisers, with regard to the proceedings to be adopted towards foreigners in places placed under martial law, referred to in my despatch No. 1087 of the 17th September. I have thought it desirable to refer this document to Mr. Burrell, the Acting Judge of the Supreme Court, for his opinion, which I have also the honour to inclose. Your Lordship will observe that he considers the question to be of a sufficiently delicate and important nature to be submitted to the Law Officers of the Crown.

Although the Porte has directed this report to be drawn up for its information, I have no reason to believe, as I stated in my despatch above referred to, that it anticipates taking any action in the matter, at any rate for the present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 147.

Report of Legal Advisers of Porte as to proceedings to be adopted towards Foreigners in places under Martial Law.

L'AMBASSADE de l'Angleterre, à qui a été officieusement communiqué le projet de règlement sur l'état de siége concernant les étrangers, a cru devoir, officieusement aussi, critiquer ce projet en disant que les sujets Anglais ne devraient pas être exposés à être arrêtés ou à avoir leurs habitations fouillées lorsque leur Consul ne donne pas son consentement; dans ce cas il faudrait s'en rapporter à l'Ambassade, étant à supposer que le consentement ne serait refusé que pour de bonnes raisons.

Parmi les Capitulations proprement dites, il en est une seule qui subordonne la perquisition dans la maison de l'étranger au consentement de l'autorité diplomatique ou Consulaire de laquelle il relève. C'est la plus récente Capitulation Française, celle de 1740, dont l'Article 70 est ainsi conçu :—

"Les gens de justice et les officiers de ma Sublime Porte, de même que les gens d'épée, ne pourront sans nécessité entrer par force dans une maison habitée par un Français; et, lorsque le cas requerra d'y entrer, on en avertira l'Ambassadeur ou le Consul, dans les endroits où il y en aura, et l'on se transportera dans l'endroit en question, avec les personnes qui auront été commises de leur part; et si quelqu'un contrevient à cette disposition il sera châtié."

Il est à remarquer que l'arrestation de l'étranger dans un lieu public n'est formellement visée, ni par cette disposition, ni par aucune autre disposition des Capitulations proprement dites.

A une certaine époque du siècle présent la Sublime Porte se montra disposée à des concessions plus larges pour les privilèges des autorités étrangères en matière criminelle. C'est ce que l'on remarque en premier lieu dans le Traité avec les Etats Unis d'Amérique, qui est de 1830, et dans l'Article IV duquel on lit ceci: —

"Les citoyens des Etats Unis d'Amérique vaquant paisiblement aux affaires de leur commerce, et qui ne sont ni accusés ni convaincus de quelque crime ou délit, ne seront point molestés; et si même ils avaient commis quelque délit, ils ne seront ni arrêtés ni mis en prison par les autorités locales; mais ils seront jugés par leur Ministre ou Consul, et punis suivant leur délit et suivant la coutume établie à l'égard des Francs."

L'Article VIII du Traité avec la Belgique, qui est de 1839, dispose à peu près dans les mêmes termes:

"Les Belges vaquant honnêtement et paisiblement à leurs occupations ou à leur commerce ne pourront jamais être arrêtés ou molestés par les autorités locales. Mais en cas de crime ou de délit, l'affaire sera remise à leur Ministre, Chargé d'Affaires, Consul, ou Vice-Consul, les accusés seront jugés par lui et punis selon l'usage établi à l'égard des Francs."

Et l'Article VIII du Traité conclu avec le Portugal en 1843 porte:

"Les Portugais vaquant honnêtement et paisiblement à leur commerce ne pourront jamais être arrêtés ou molestés par les autorités locales; mais en cas de crime ou de délit, l'affaire sera remise à leur Ministre, Chargé d'Affaires, Consul, ou Vice-Consul; les accusés seront jugés par lui, et punis suivant l'usage établi à l'égard des Francs."

Ces dispositions n'ont plus aujourd'hui qu'un intérêt historique; car le Protocole pour l'admission des étrangers à la propriété immobilière, qui a reçu depuis 1867 l'adhésion de toutes les Puissances, assure à l'autorité Ottomane le droit de perquisition dans la maison de l'étranger au cas où l'autorité étrangère lui refuse son assistance et même, dans un cas, sans avoir besoin de requérir cette assistance.

En effet le Protocole porte que "le Consul est tenu de prêter son assistance immédiate à l'autorité locale" quand il s'agit de pénétrer dans la demeure d'un étranger située à moins de neuf heures de la résidence Consulaire. L'assistance immédiate y est expliquée en ce sens qu'il ne doit pas s'écouler plus de six heures entre l'instant où le Consul aura été prévenu et l'instant du départ du Consul ou de son Délégué. Si la demeure de l'étranger est à neuf heures de la résidence Consulaire, ou plus éloignée, s'il y urgence, et qu'il s'agisse de certains crimes déterminés, le Protocole dispense l'autorité locale de requérir l'assistance du Consul et l'autorise à pénétrer dans la demeure de l'étranger avec l'assistance de trois membres du Conseil des Anciens de la commune.

La portée restrictive de la section 3 du Projet par rapport au Protocole se réduit à la suppression du délai de six heures imparti au conseil dont l'assistance est requise par l'autorité locale. La gravité des circonstances qui suppose l'état de siége exige que l'action de l'autorité Consulaire soit vraiment immédiate et que cette autorité ne puisse pas paralyser pendant six heures l'action de l'autorité militaire Ottomane.

Pour le cas où l'autorité Consulaire n'obtempère pas immédiatement à la réquisition de l'autorité militaire, le projet remplace l'assistance du Consul ou de son délégué par une garantie analogue à celle admise par la seconde disposition susvisée du Protocole.

La prétention de subordonner un consentement du Consul l'arrestation de l'étranger ou la perquisition dans sa demeure est en contradiction formelle avec le Protocole.

Inclosure 2 in No. 147.

Mr. Burrell to Mr. Layard.

(Private.)

Pera, November 3, 1877.

Sir,

WITH respect to the note of the Porte sent to me confidentially by your Excellency I have to state that I have carefully perused the Protocol of the 28th July, 1868, as well as the Capitulations and clauses of different Treaties regarding the question.

The words of the third paragraph of the Protocol show that the authorities cannot enter the house of a foreign subject without the assistance of the Consul.

It is true that in the fifth paragraph of the Protocol there are the words, "de son côté le Consul est tenu de prêter son assistance immédiate à l'autorité locale;" but this seems to me to mean that he is bound to give his assistance immediately in all cases where he consents to do so.

It is apparently a clause to prevent delay on the part of the Consul.

Where a Consul for good reasons thinks it right to refuse his assistance, the authorities should either address the Ambassador or would act on their own responsibility.

There is no provision made in the Protocol for the case in which the Consul should refuse his assistance, but arguing from analogy the authorities would probably claim to act as is laid down in the Règlement of $\frac{1}{24}$ October, 1867, for drinking shops, Article 16 of which states that where the shop of a foreign subject is to be closed and the Chancellerie of that subject for some reason refuses its assistance, the local authorities may act on their own responsibility.

In paragraph 6 of the Protocol certain specified cases of great urgency are the only ones in which the officers of police may act without the assistance of the Consul.

I think that the Protocol in specifying the particular cases in which the authorities may act without Consular aid, does admit that the arrest of a foreign subject in his house or a perquisition therein, except in the cases mentioned in § 6, requires the consent of the Consul.

The refusal of the Consul to assist the local authorities will naturally be of rare occurrence, as he would incur serious responsibility if he refused aid wrongfully.

The question, however, seems to be a sufficiently delicate one, and with respect to the state of siege important enough to be submitted to the Law Officers of the Crown, if your Excellency should think it desirable.

I return the note of the Porte inclosed herewith and have, &c.

(Signed) W. PALFREY BURRELL.

No. 148.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1207.)

Therapia, November 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE spoken more than once to Server Pasha on the subject of the conduct of the Albanian irregulars of the Gueghu tribe, who have been sent from their native mountains to Thessaly, and have given him, privately and confidentially, a memorandum on the subject, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose. His Excellency complained to me to-day that M. Tricoupi had accused him to Photiades Bey of not having fulfilled his promise to withdraw these irregulars altogether from the Greek frontier. Such a promise, his Excellency said, he had never given, and M. Tricoupi had made a statement which was entirely unfounded. However, his Excellency added, he was quite alive to the mischief caused by the presence of these lawless men. He regretted it on every account; but Greece herself, by her menacing attitude, had rendered it absolutely necessary for the Porte to have recourse to the only means that it had of defending itself against threatened aggression. Now that the conduct of the Greek Government towards Turkey was more satisfactory, the Gueghus would be withdrawn, and orders had already been sent for carrying out this measure gradually and cautiously. The local authorities had likewise been instructed to take every means in their power to prevent excesses on the part of these Albanians, some of whom had already been arrested and punished for robbing and ill-treating the villagers; but he would not communicate to the Greek Government what had been done, as it would immediately pretend that the Porte had yielded to its demands, and he begged me not to mention what he had told me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Memorandum respecting Albanian Irregulars in Thessaly.

THE excesses unquestionably committed by Albanian irregulars of the Gueghu tribe, even in the presence of the Turkish authorities and of the regular troops, in the province of Thessaly, upon the Christian villagers and population, have caused considerable excitement in Greece against Turkey, and may lead, unless speedily checked, to a serious misunderstanding between the two countries.

Recently some efforts have been made by the local authorities to restrain these lawless men. Her Majesty's Ambassador ventures to submit to the Porte, in the most friendly spirit, and in his anxious desire that complications with Greece should be avoided, that measures should be taken without delay to maintain the strictest order and discipline amongst them, if it is found impossible to withdraw them, or, at least, the greater part of them from the Greek frontier.

The Greek clergy and notables in the province of Thessaly have made serious representations on the subject of the acts of violence, robberies, and outrages upon women committed by the Gueghas, who appear from trustworthy reports received by Her Majesty's Ambassador, to have been guilty of these excesses throughout their march from their native province, through the Vilayet of Monastir to the districts they now occupy.

Therapia, November 5, 1877.

No. 149.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1298. Confidential.) *Therapia, November 5, 1877.*

My Lord,

THERE have been rumours during the last few days in Constantinople, which have, no doubt, reached Europe through newspaper correspondents, that some act of violence has been committed either towards the ex-Sultan Murad or some persons of his household. It was even said that the Prince had been seized in the night and carried off to some place in Asia.

The Grand Vizier, to whom I have spoken on the subject, assures me that there is no truth in these reports. All that has happened, his Highness says, is that a number of useless servants and black eunuchs, for whom, it appears, the present Sultan has a great dislike, have been dismissed from the ex-Sultan's establishment. Some of them have been allowed to remain in Constantinople on small pensions. The blacks have been sent to a warmer and more congenial climate. Amongst these attendants, his Highness states, were some who were employed in mischievous intrigues. It is not improbable that such may have been the case.

There is no doubt that there have been intrigues of late directed, it is believed, by Murad's mother, who has the reputation of being a designing and ambitious woman. They may have amounted almost to a conspiracy to dethrone the Sultan and to replace him by his brother. In my secret despatch No. 635, of the 19th of June last, I reported to your Lordship that a communication was made to me indirectly by the Princess in behalf of her son. I have reason to know that she has done the same with regard to at least two of my colleagues. These intrigues, if not stopped, might prove very dangerous to the Empire at such a time as the present.

The Grand Vizier informs me that, although Prince Murad has occasional lucid intervals, his state is such that a complete cure and return to reason are hopeless. This, it is stated, is the opinion of the medical men who are attending, and who have been called in to see him; but it is exceedingly difficult to get at the truth in such matters. In this case there are so many motives for concealing it that, had the ex-Sultan even recovered, every care would probably be taken to conceal the fact.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 150.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1299. Confidential.) *Therapia, November 5, 1877.*

My Lord,

PUBLIC feeling is a good deal excited at the present moment against Mahmoud Damat Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law, who is believed to have a bad influence over His Majesty, and to be the principal cause, by the advice that he has given, of the reverses recently sustained by the Turkish arms. Seditious placards against him have been affixed upon the walls of Constantinople, and some persons believe that unless he be speedily removed from office and from the Palace, serious disturbances may be apprehended, especially as the party in favour of the ex-Sultan Murad are conspiring to replace him on the Throne. I am assured that military precautions have been taken during the last few nights for the protection of the Sultan's person, which, it is now feared, may be in danger.

From what I have heard from the Sultan himself, I believe that Mahmoud Damat Pasha has lost the influence which he formerly possessed over His Majesty, and that His Majesty would not be sorry to rid himself of him altogether. But his natural timidity is increased by the critical circumstances in which he is placed, and he apparently hesitates to take a step which would make a dangerous enemy of the man who placed him upon the Throne, and to whose interest it is to keep him there.

However, in the event of further disasters to the Turkish armies, the pressure of public opinion may render Mahmoud Damat's dismissal absolutely necessary for the safety of the Sultan himself. It was remarked that when the Sultan left the mosque last Friday, after the customary ceremony, he directed Said Pasha, the head of his military household, who now seems to enjoy his entire confidence, to take a place in his carriage, passing over Mahmoud Damat Pasha, who was in attendance upon him. This was looked upon as a public and very significant mark of the Pasha's loss of his Sovereign's favour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 151.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1303.) *Therapia, November 6, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 612 of the 18th ultimo, inclosing copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, relating to an article in the "Golos" describing the mission of Count Schérémétiew to Mehemet Ali Pasha with a flag of truce, and to the language said to have been held by the Turkish General with respect to England, I have the honour to state that Sir Collingwood Dickson had an opportunity of speaking on the subject to Mehemet Ali Pasha himself, who declared that the story published in the "Golos" is absolutely false and ridiculous from beginning to end, and that there is not a word of truth as to the language about England ascribed to him.

As regards the accusation made against the Turkish troops of firing upon a flag of truce (also referred to in Lord A. Loftus' despatch), Izzet Bey, who was the "parlementaire" sent to the Russian camp, alluded to in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," has sent me a written statement (a copy of which I have the honour to inclose) denying that any such occurrence as that described took place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Statement by Izzet Bey.

VOICI la vérité sur ces faits racontés d'une façon aussi étrange:—

J'ai été assez régulièrement reçu par les avant-postes Russes près d'Ayaslar; mais pour un motif que j'ignore, l'on m'y fit passer la nuit.

Le lendemain vers midi le Général Proboroff me faisait dire que je pouvais me rendre auprès du Grand Duc Nicolas.

La voiture qui me conduisait s'arrêta trois heures après dans un village où j'ai été reçu par le Général Hane, qui m'invita à déjeuner. Mais quand on m'ouvrit les yeux je fus étonné de voir que mon cheval m'avait suivi. J'ai demandé au Général ce qu'on comptait en faire; il me répondit qu'il ne pouvait ni m'accompagner ni rester au camp Russe, et qu'il fallait l'envoyer à nos avant-postes.

Il me donna de quoi écrire, et la lettre fut écrite en Français; mais comme à nos avant-postes on n'aurait pas pu lire l'adresse si elle avait été écrite dans la même langue le Général n'a trouvé aucun inconvénient à ce qu'elle fut écrite en Turc; d'autant plus que là j'ai vu plusieurs officiers connaissant notre langue.

Après avoir terminé ma mission auprès du Grand Duc Nicolas et de retour aux avant-postes Russes, j'ai eu une entrevue avec le Général Proboroff, qui me montra mon cheval resté auprès de lui, et me dit que les avant-postes de l'armée Impériale avaient tiré sur le parlementaire Russe chargé de le leur remettre.

Or, ceci se passait pendant que j'étais en route pour le quartier général Russe, et ce jour là sur toute notre ligne on attaquait les positions de l'armée Russe. Il est possible que de très loin le parlementaire en question ait entendu siffler des balles; mais certainement le feu n'était pas et ne pouvait être dirigé sur lui; car à mon retour au camp on m'affirma que personne n'était venu des lignes Russes en parlementaire.

Je ne vois pas comment nos soldats auraient fait feu sur un parlementaire Russe qui aurait pu amener un officier Turc se trouvant chez eux, alors qu'ils ont reçu d'après toutes les règles du droit des gens le Comte Schérémétiew, envoyé presqu'en même temps au camp Impérial Ottoman.

Avant de terminer cette rectification je ferais observer à l'auteur de cette accusation l'erreur très grave qu'il a commise en croyant que sur les drapeaux parlementaires il y a une croix rouge.

(Signé) IZZET.

No. 152.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 1304.) *Therapia, November* 6, 1877.

My Lord,

IN the report of the audience given by the Sultan to Mr. Goldney, M.P., and Mr. Edwards, M.P., sent to the "Times" by its correspondent here, and published in that journal on the 27th ultimo, His Majesty is stated to have said that "he thought that what was wanted to secure and perfect this (the acquisition and tenure of property irrespective of race or creed) was one uniform code administered by the native judges, instead of the variety of Consular Courts of every nation accredited to the Porte which lowered and impaired the powers of the Government and led to the greatest complications and difficulties."

I think it right to state that the correspondent in question is in error, as the Sultan made no such observation, nor was the subject of the administration of justice or of Consular Courts alluded to by His Majesty. Moreover, as it is well known, property may be held in Turkey by persons of all races and religious creeds.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 153.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 1305.) *Therapia, November* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

COLONEL MAITLAND informs me, by a telegram just received, that he and Major de Winton had reached Orkhanie. The Russians were within thirty kilomètres of the place, but were not moving at that time towards it.

Major de Winton had found 10,100 fugitives at Sofia, and 12,000 in the vilayet. Colonel Maitland states that there are about 30,000 between Sofia and Orkhanie. They are all, I believe, Mussulmans driven out of their villages by the Russian advance, and the sufferings to which they are exposed are terrible. As the majority are helpless women and children, the mortality amongst them during the cold weather will be very great. Should the Russians succeed in defeating the Turks at Orkhanie and advance upon Sofia, these fugitives will run the greatest danger. Major de Winton, writing to me from Tatar Bazardjik, states that "a strong feeling exists in the district that a general massacre of Christians would take place if the Russians cross the Balkans." On the other hand, where the majority of the population consists of Bulgarians, the result would, he writes, be most disastrous to the Mussulmans. There is not a regiment, he says, between Tatar Bazardjik and Adrianople, so that no protection could be given either to Christians or Mohammedans by the military authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 154.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 1307.) *Therapia, November* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Reade respecting the numbers and condition of the refugees in the districts of Osman Bazar and Eski-Djuma.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, November 1, 1877.

Sir,

WHILST at Rasgrad, on my way to Rustchuk, I made inquiries of people I found had just arrived from Osman Bazar and Eski-Djuma as to the number and condition of the refugees in those districts, and was informed that they had greatly increased in number since the late retreat of the army corps from the line of the Lom, and as the cold weather has set in, they are taken as far as possible into the towns. I was told that a good many were very lightly clothed, not having been able to furnish themselves with what they required from their having been hurried off so suddenly.

I have arranged with a merchant of high standing at Shumla, connected with a firm in Manchester, and who has the best correspondents in all the districts where there are refugees, to furnish me with constant information from these districts on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 155.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 1308.) *Therapia, November* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Vice-Consul Blakeney upon the state of affairs in the district of Prevesa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 155.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Prevesa, October 27, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the two Christians, Chrissis and Tobia, who, about three weeks since, were arrested on suspicion and sent to Arta, have been released, and they both returned to Prevesa the other day.

About 100,000 okes of biscuits and 250,000 okes of flour for the garrisons of Prevesa and Arta were dispatched hither by sea from Volo.

Fiku Bey, late Mutessarif of Prevesa, left on Wednesday last for his new post at Debra. From M. Kypriotis I hear that about 400 Albanian irregulars, raised by Chimâli Nebrentza, arrived at Janina on the 21st instant, the greater part of whom, however, are youths of fifteen and men above fifty years of age. M. Kypriotis also reports the capture at Isepelovna (Zagori) of a brigand belonging to a band which some time back had been attacked by the Government troops, and resulted in the slaying of one and the capture of another, as reported in my Confidential despatch of the 18th August last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

No. 156.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1309.)
My Lord,

Therapia, November 7, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1276 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum from General Sir Collingwood Dickson with regard to Dr. Douglas, one of the persons described by the Russian authorities to Colonel Wellesley as a British officer in the active service of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Memorandum respecting Dr. Douglas.

WITH reference to a memorandum for the information of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the positions and employments of certain persons, British subjects, alleged to be in the active service of the Turkish army, the name of Douglas was therein stated as unknown. This memorandum was sent in on 31st ultimo, and since then it has been ascertained that a Dr. Baird Douglas has been made a prisoner by the Russians at Tilish on the 28th ultimo. Dr. Douglas was employed with an ambulance of the Red Crescent, and belonged to the staff of surgeons of the Stafford House Committee, and is not, therefore, in the active service of the Turkish army in the field.

(Signed) C. DICKSON, *Lieutenant-General.*

Therapia, November 7, 1877.

No. 157.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1310.)
My Lord,

Therapia, November 7, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Dupuis, stating that from the 6th to the 30th October only one Bulgarian prisoner was executed in the district of Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, October 30, 1877.

Sir,

SINCE writing to your Excellency on the 14th instant, forwarding a list of political prisoners executed in the district towns of this province up to the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that no public executions have taken place since either in this town or

district as far as I can learn with the exception of one man, Ghantchoïstoyanoff, of Slimnia.

This individual, whose father was named by the insurgents Governor of Yambolu, but subsequently escaped either to Russia and was himself named Mutessarif of Slimnia, was executed by hanging in this town on the 19th instant.

It was mentioned to me that on the 14th instant four Bulgarians were hanged under barbarous circumstances in Yeni-Zaghra, by being lowered several times and after death their bodies slapped and beaten with sticks and bayoneted in the presence of six Russian prisoners of war, but as I do not place great reliance in this story and it may find its way into foreign papers, I give it to your Excellency as related to me.

Yesterday three Bulgarian lads named Gospodino Zabren, of Aktchi, Ilam, aged 14, Golo Raiko, of Yeni-Zaghra, aged 14, and Belo Ghentcho, of Kutchuk Kleri, aged 13, political prisoners, were released from prison, and this evening about 250 Bulgarians were conveyed prisoners to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

No. 158.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1311.)
My Lord,

Therapia, November 7, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Acting Consul Barker, relative to the attack by Bashi-Bazouks on the residence of the Greek Consul at Larissa, and the proceedings of the irregular troops in the Provinces of Thessaly and Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Salonica, October 24, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, by a despatch dated 17th October from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, I have received three inclosures in Greek referring to the acts of the Ghegas and Zeibecks. I inclose an abstract in English of Nos. 1 and 2 (inclosure No. 4) divested of all extraneous matter and foreign to the purpose; but I annex the originals, in case your Excellency should wish to refer to them.

Inclosure No. 5 is a translation into English of copy No. 3, being a petition from the inhabitants of Tirnovo to the authority at Larissa against the acts of the Zeibecks, translated from the Turkish into Greek. Mr. Suter adds that the new Mutessarif of Larissa has instituted a strict inquiry upon the receipt of this petition, and expressed his determination to inflict severe punishment upon the culprits.

These Zeibecks are irregulars from Asia Minor, Zeibecks, Circassians, Arnaouts, and others, the sweepings of the prisons, of whom 800 infantry arrived at Volo on the 12th instant, swelling the number of Bashi-Bazouks at present in Thessaly to over 5,500, and if the others, mentioned as expected in Mr. Suter's letters, come forward, the number of irregulars will be about 12,000.

The inclosures now sent to your Excellency supply full details, which your Excellency asked Mr. Suter for; and, although there may be exaggeration in some of the circumstances, the main facts are beyond question, for constantly letters are being received here from so many sources, all confirmatory of the acts of the Bashi-Bazouks and Ghegas, and not a single dissent.

By a great flood which occurred about three weeks ago, the railway between Uscup and Mitrovitza has been totally destroyed, and three months are supposed to be necessary for the repairs before that part of the line can be made available.

I have, &c,
(Signed) E. B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 158.

Abstract of the Report in Greek, sent by the Greek Bishop of the small town of Platamona, on the 15th September (o. s.), *1877, to his Archbishop at Larissa. To be forwarded to the Patriarch.*

THE Mudir of Olympus sent an order to the villages Platamona, Ambelakia, Crania, Pirgeto, Lespochori, and Rhapsaney, to send 70 horses to the Turkish village Baba, where 800 Ghega Albanian irregulars were to come, declaring that if this be done immediately they would not be disturbed by their presence, for "not a single Bashi-Bazouk" would pass through their villages. Relying on this official intimation and promise this order was obeyed in one day and the 70 horses sent. The Chiefs (or officers) of these troops mounting these horses went with their men and plundered all these villages in spite of the hospitality offered them and accepted.

In one day at this Rhapsaney they consumed 400 okes of bread, 40 sheep, 100 okes of rice, 100 okes of butter, nearly as much honey, without reckoning the tobacco, coffee, and sugar.

After this they went to the sacred monastery of the Transformation, near Rhapsaney, carried away the sacred vessels in silver and stripped the Reverend Prior to see if he had any money about him. They have broken open houses, beat unmercifully those they met after having taken all their money from them.

They took all the animals they found, but they did not touch the women nor the children, nor the lives of those who did not offer any resistance. After this they extorted and took 4,000 piastres from the villages under the guise of "tooth-pick money."

Abstract of Copy No. 2.

In this next report to his Archbishop (written at Larissa), the Bishop says:

The irregulars extorted another 4,000 piastres, and retained and beat those men who carried the money to their quarters until the whole of the 4,000 was complete, for in counting the money they found only 3,700. The cash was received and taken by their Chief Abdi Bey, of Debra. This man obliged the elders of the village to sign a declaration that he and his men had paid for everything they had had to the last farthing.

From Rhapsaney they went to the village Ambelakia, where they found the officer of the regular troops from Derlee, who had been invited by the villagers in the hope of his being able to restrain their expected invaders, but, as soon as these saw him, they fell upon him and beat him so unmercifully that they left him half dead. The inhabitants, terrified at this lawless act on an officer of the Porte, fled to the mountains, leaving their houses to the pillagers, who carried off every thing of value, loading therewith seven horses, and before leaving the village they obliged by force the elders who remained to sign a document like the one above-mentioned, and also extorted a sum of money for "tooth-pick money."

He then relates how he recovered the chalice of the Monastery of the Transformation, and how he succeeded in preventing their robbing his own church, and how the same acts were committed in the villages Nisero, Laspochoree, Pirgeto, Crania, and Caria, and that the loss by each was more than 25,000 piastres. That he had begged four of his parishioners to accompany him to Larissa, in order that they might bear witness to the complaints he intended to make, but they refused, and begged him, for God's sake, not to do any such thing, fearing that worse might happen to them; and this he considers to be the greatest subject of sorrow, because it "proves how utterly wretched and miserably disheartened they are." But he found the inhabitants of Ambelakia less timid, and they accompanied him. This is the account of the sufferings of the Christians in all this Province.

Written at Larissa this 22nd day of September, 1877 (o.s.).

Inclosure 3 in No. 158.

Petition from the Inhabitants of Tirnova to the Authority at Larissa.

(Translation from the Greek. Originally in Turkish.)

Excellency,

WE, the undersigned inhabitants of Tirnovo, Christian and Ottoman subjects, convinced of the sentiments of compassion and mercy of your Excellency, take the liberty to lay before you what follows:—

We have suffered lately much in various ways from the Ghegha irregulars of Debra, who were fed at our expense, and with whose demands we have been constrained to comply, much to our loss. We have now a fresh source of misfortune, by having with us the Zeibeck irregulars, recently arrived, who were lodged in the barracks of this town. All these people have behaved very badly from the time they came, but now their conduct has become insupportable. These Zeibecks went into a house at the extremity of this town of Tirnovo, and found in a tin box some percussion caps which had belonged to a man who died about a month ago, and whose trade was that of a blacksmith and gunsmith. Though this circumstance was well known to the Zeibecks, they took this pretended discovery of arms as a pretext, and began to pillage our houses and violate our women, striking and wounding whoever opposed them, so that Yeorghi Antanios, Sarec Nasso, Helen Zissula, Dragetto, and Yanni Cutzo, and many others, found their houses completely robbed of everything, and Yanni Calkio, Naoum Papuzieco, and some others, were wounded, so that some were beaten, some wounded, and many women violated, and a panic spread through all the town and some fled, others, who had the means, barricaded their houses; and now as this is the time of the vintage, which forms one of the principal products by which we live, and as we are compelled to abandon this, all will be lost, for we dare not go out into the fields. And these fields also, which are sown with cotton and sesam seed, will be lost to us for another year, and the Government will also lose the tithes. So great are our sufferings that we do not know what to do.

Placing what precedes before your Excellency, we pray that a strict inquiry be made with regard to the percussion caps, and if it be found that we have any blame in this matter we are ready to forfeit our lives and those of our children, but if the contrary is the case, as it really is, we think it very unjust that we should be so treated, since we are peaceable and obedient subjects under the powerful, merciful, and just sceptre of our venerated Sovereign.

We are sure that these misdeeds are not pleasing to His Majesty, who is distinguished for benevolence and compassion for all his subjects, and we confidently trust that your Excellency will not permit these misdeeds to continue, and therefore we incline ourselves humbly praying that such measures be taken as will be thought necessary to cause such to cease.

(Signed) The Inhabitants of Tirnova.

Tirnova, October 1, 1877, o.s.

Inclosure 4 in No. 158.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, October 29, 1877.

Sir,

MR. VICE-CONSUL SUTER has replied to my instruction to furnish all the information and evidence regarding the attack on the Greek Consul's residence at Larissa, which your Excellency instructed me to require from him.

Mr. Suter refers me to his despatch of which I had the honour to transmit to your Excellency the substance in my despatch of October 1,* and declares that that information was procured from trustworthy eye-witnesses, that the irregulars did really beat the door and tried to force it; and he adds, "the Greek Consul never quitted his residence at any time during the late disturbances;" so that there is no truth in that part of the account related to your Excellency by the Porte.

By a report just given me by the first Dragoman of this Consulate I learn that the Ghegha irregulars were about to enter the towns of Veria and Naousta, but the Kaimakam of Veria negotiated a compromise by the payment to them of a certain sum of money by the inhabitants, and thus the blow was warded off till regular troops could be sent by Nousret Pasha, who has received orders from the Porte to that effect.

* Not received.

But in the large village Siatista about seventy Gheghas came, commanded by a man called Bairam Aga, who killed two of the Christians. The Kaïmakam of Naolitzee having been casually near there was called in, and he arrived with a posse of police who summoned them to deliver up the assassins. This Bairam Aga refused to do, and fighting began which lasted at intervals for two days, the houses being barricaded. Two officers and two policemen were wounded; one Christian killed and two wounded; nine Gheghas killed and ten wounded, among whom was Bairam Aga; and then two companies of regular troops arrived, sent by Nousret Pasha, when the Gheghas were overpowered and their arms taken from them.

The inhabitants of Siatista sent a telegram next day to thank the Vali for this timely assistance.

The town of Naousta, famous for its good wine, is still threatened by the invasion of a band of 100 Gheghas who have deserted and become lawless outlaws.

By orders from the Porte our Vali has sent permission to the Christians of the different villages to fire upon and resist the irregular troops, whether Gheghas or others, in self-defence, so that we may expect collisions and skirmishes to take place between them.

On the 24th instant an Ottoman steamer arrived and landed here arms and ammunition and went off to Volo and Prevesa, intending to land there also arms, ammunition, and war stores.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. B. BARKER.

No. 159.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1312.) *Therapia, November 7, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Vice-Consul Brophy and from Commander Drummond, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," reporting on the state of the country in the vicinity of the Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 159.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, November 2, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that two days after the plundering (on the 24th ultimo) of the town of Sigopoli by a band of Circassians, a company of Mustaphiz soldiers arrived here from Aidos, and that the Kaïmakam of Bourgas proceeded with them in pursuit of the robbers.

I am informed that the Kaïmakam (who has not yet returned) is acting very energetically in this matter, and up to the present date has arrested more than twenty Circassians, who have been sent here, on suspicion of being implicated in the robbery.

Certain circumstances connected with the affair in question seem to point to the complicity of Christians (Rayahs and others) to the looting of Sigopoli and of two other villages (within twenty-four hours) by the same band.

The Turkish Mudir of Sigopoli, Sali Effendi, tells me that eight houses and twenty-four shops were stripped of all their contents, and that the inhabitants estimate their loss at from 3,000*l.* to 5,000*l.* Turkish. I am, however, inclined to believe that the fourth of the smaller sum named by them would better represent the value of the booty carried off.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 159.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, November 3, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have lately received information from Slimnia, according to which it appears that the peasantry of that district, both Mussulman and Rayah, have commenced to return to their previously abandoned villages, and that such amongst them as still possess any cattle, or the means of purchasing them, are ploughing and sowing.

My informants (Rayahs) tell me that there is security for life and property, but that the harvest of this year must be regarded as almost totally lost.

Heavy and continuous artillery firing is said to be daily heard at Slimnia from the Pass of Damir-Kapon, about sixteen miles to the north of the town.

From the Cazas of Karnabad and Aidos I learn that great activity is shown by the authorities in searching for and recovering stolen cattle, of which large numbers are now in those towns awaiting claim by their owners, whilst many arrests of Turkish and Circassian cattle-lifters have been made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 159.

Commander Drummond to Mr. Layard.

"Rapid," Bourgas, October 31, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I am still at Bourgas, in Her Majesty's ship under my command; Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" is also here.

The state of affairs here appears to me to be much the same as usual, no worse; though Messemoria and Sigopolis have lately been partially plundered by Circassians, or rather robberies have been committed in these two villages by Circassians in open day.

I should not personally infer from this that Bourgas itself is in any danger from Circassians; but the Vice-Consul, whose local experience and influence is very great, and whose opinion is therefore valuable, thinks there is possible danger to this town. I therefore propose to remain here, and that either the "Rapid" or "Cockatrice" should visit Messemoria, Sigopolis, and Ankela, when the weather becomes settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. DRUMMOND.

No. 160.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 67. Political.) *Canea, Crete, November 5, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have written to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the banishment of the Cretan Deputy, M. Argyraki.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 160.

Consul Sandwith to Mr. Layard.

Canea, Crete, November 5, 1877.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 13th ultimo I had the honour to report that a great effort had been made to induce the Porte to release from prison a certain Christoforos Argyraki, a Deputy in the Cretan General Assembly. It would appear that that effort was successful, and that he was released on bail; but, after reference to the authorities here, it was

determined to banish him to Diarbekir. His wife telegraphed to me, acquainting me with this decision, and imploring me to request your Excellency to procure his liberation, or that the penalty of exile be commuted into imprisonment at Constantinople; but I informed her that I could not further interfere.

It surprises me to find what an impression this incident has created among the Christian inhabitants. As M. Argyraki was well known for his opposition to all revolutionary methods for procuring the improvement of his countrymen's condition, and was, in consequence, viewed with distrust by the more ardent patriots, the universal remark now is that the only means left for the Cretans is to attempt to gain their ends by force, for which they are willing to bide their opportunity.

When the next General Assembly meets in May, it is hardly likely that the Deputies, with the example of Argyraki before their eyes, will have recourse to petition; but the thoughts of the people will be bent on other and more violent means for attaining their ends, should peace not be made in the interval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 161.

Consul Carruthers to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(Confidential.) *Tagunrog, November 6, 1877.*

My Lord,

AN occurrence of a very painful character is spoken of among the better informed classes here, assumed to have taken place latterly in Armenia, where several thousands of the defeated Turkish troops were, it is alleged, massacred by Russian soldiers after resistance had ceased, the latter having become so exasperated at atrocities committed by Bashi-Bazouks, Kurds, &c., that the officers are said to have lost all control over their men. The number of Turks stated to have been sacrificed is so great that I forbear to mention the amount, and would fain hope reports to be fallacious; as, however, full credence is given thereto by persons that should be well informed on the subject, I consider it a duty to apprise your Lordship of same.

The intelligence in question is said to have reached this place by a courier passing on his way from Tiflis to St. Petersburgh.

Orders have been received at some of the principal railway stations not to send forward any more provisions or munitions; whether those instructions are general, or applicable to the Rostoff-Nadlikavkaz line only, I am unable to ascertain.

The conveyance of goods by railway is at present suspended in this quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. CARRUTHERS.

No. 162.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 14, 1877.*

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday, Minister of Finance informed me to-day that vessels from Russian ports bound for or passing through Turkish ports are prohibited, at military instigation, from hading with grain or provisions, in consequence of Greek vessels having transported corn from Azow ports to Varna.

No. 163.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 14, 1877, 9 P.M.*

BELGRADE Militia is to assemble here on the 19th instant, probably with a view to a more general mobilization.

No. 164.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 15, 1877, 6·30 P.M.*

IT is reported that the Geshoffs are to be sent to a fanatical part of Turkey, where they may be ill-treated. Her Majesty's Government are asked to intercede that they should be sent to Europe.

Report to me what are the facts, and, if necessary, use your best efforts to secure them from being sent to any place where they would be likely to meet with ill-treatment.

No. 165.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 15, 1877, 6·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 481 and 484, in the absence of any information here respecting the Commission at Constantinople on importation and sale of arms, Her Majesty's Government can offer no opinion as to the course which the English Delegate should pursue, and will, therefore, leave the question to be dealt with according to your discretion.

No 166.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, November 15, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE been informed that the Geshoffs are likely to be sent to a fanatical part of Turkey, where it is possible they might meet with ill-treatment, and the intervention of Her Majesty's Government has been requested to procure their being sent to Europe instead.

I have to instruct your Excellency to report to me what the facts of the matter are, and, if you should deem it necessary, you should use your best efforts to prevent the Turkish Government from sending them to any place where there would be a probability of their being badly treated.

I have telegraphed to your Excellency the substance of this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 167.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 10. Political.) *Varna, November 2, 1877.*

My Lord,

HAVING just returned from Rustchuk and its vicinity, where I proceeded on the public service, I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte a despatch, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

Leaving the military matters to Colonel Lennox, Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy, my work inland has been principally to prevent, as far as possible, outrages by Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, and the best plan I found to be was to go myself amongst them and to let them see what my object in doing so was. I at the first actually caught several in *flagranti delicto*, and thus brought them under notice of the Governor-General, Ahmed Kniserley Pasha, who, I must say in justice to his Excellency, at once took all the measures that could be desired, and which have been the means of preventing many and grave disorders. I have, nevertheless, always pursued the same plan, and I am happy to say that very few and insignificant cases have since occurred.

It has been stated by the Russians that the Bashi-Bazouks in general on this side murdered their wounded soldiers. In order to ascertain the truth of this, I myself lately made personal inquiries on the subject, the result of which was that I found that those Mussulmans who had their relatives slaughtered and their houses burnt by Bulgarians and

Cossacks followed the army in order to take the only revenge that was practicable to them, and thus no doubt wounded Russians were killed by them. I nevertheless spoke to Mehemet Ali Pasha, the late Commander-in-chief, who issued stringent orders on the subject; but it is extremely difficult notwithstanding to put a stop to this; at all events, in consequence of the Commander-in-chief's orders, the practice has diminished.

I shall continue to go up to Rustchuk as directed by your Lordship, and shall continue to do my very best in the way I have hitherto done.

From the very numerous matters I have had to attend to at Sulina, Shumla, Rasgrad, Rustchuk, Silistria, Varna, and other places in the vilayet, I have hitherto been absolutely unable to address more than Her Majesty's Ambassador, who, however, said that he would forward to your Lordship my reports. As, however, I have now got matters in a train that will afford me more time, I shall not fail to report to your Lordship whatever may transpire of importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, October 31, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Wednesday, the 24th instant, I left this for Rustchuk, which I reached on the following day.

During my stay there I went about the place for information, and from what I saw and heard I was glad to find that little or no disorder has occurred since my last. I preferred going about myself to inviting people to come to me, as the authorities are more suspicious than ever of the Bulgarians. Whilst the Italian Consul was at Rustchuk, spies were constantly about his house to see who went there, and several were thus seized and sent away; I, therefore, naturally discouraged any of them coming to me from fear of similar consequences.

There are still a number of non-combatant families at Rustchuk, many of whom have not been able to leave from want of means.

These, however, have not been so very badly off hitherto, but their sufferings, I fear, are about to commence, as the cold weather has already set in, and I do not believe that any provision of fuel whatever has been made except for the military; consequently, how these people will get over the winter I cannot conceive. I mentioned the subject to the Governor-General, but got the usual reply, viz., that the soldiers were the first to be thought of. I was informed that directly the Russians lay siege to Rustchuk, all non-combatants will be at once ordered away. Now if this measure be carried out during the usual extreme weather of this season, I fear the suffering, if not mortality, may be very considerable, and as the non-combatants are almost all Bulgarians I do not believe that the authorities give the matter any consideration for the present.

Whilst I was in Rustchuk all the attention of the authorities was turned to Kadi-keui, which is constantly threatened by the Russians.

As regards the bombardment of Rustchuk, this now takes place, I was told, whenever there is any fighting in the vicinity; for instance, on Wednesday, the 24th, when the action at Kadi-keui occurred, the Russian batteries opposite Rustchuk fired the whole day; a few casualties only occurred, and chiefly in the Mussulman quarter.

Whilst I was there (on Friday, the 26th) one shell alone was fired about sunset, to which the Turks made no reply.

The Danube, I was told, had risen a little, and if it continues to do so, the Russian bridges over the river are sure to suffer.

The cold weather appears to have quite set in; I have nevertheless seen very fine weather at Rustchuk in November.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 168.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 1315.)

Therapia, November 9, 1877.

My Lord,

A TELEGRAM received from Sir Arnold Kemball last night informs me of his arrival on the 6th instant at Baibourt, half-way between Erzeroum and Trebizond, with Captains McCalmont and Trotter. He proposes to remain there, or in the neighbourhood, for the present, and it may be as well that he should do so unless the place is threatened with capture by the Russians by a *coup de main*. Sir Arnold had quitted Erzeroum after the retreat of Mukhtar Pasha from the passes of the Deveh Boyun, in pursuance of the instructions that I had given him not to allow himself to be shut up in any place which the Russians were likely to besiege or invest.

Captains McCalmont and Trotter have proceeded to Trebizond, there to await my instructions. I have suggested to them that one or both should go to Batoum and report to me, for your Lordship's information, on the condition of that place and of its defences, as it is of considerable importance that we should know whether it is capable of resisting for some time to come an attack on the part of the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 169.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 1316.)

Therapia, November 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of three telegrams which I have received from Vice-Consul Calvert, relating to the Gueshoglus, or Gueshoffs. Server Pasha, to whom I had directed Mr. Sandison to speak on the subject, sent orders at once, with the approval of the Grand Vizier, to the authorities at Adrianople to treat the prisoners and their families kindly, and on their arrival here they will, his Excellency assures me, have proper accommodation and receive all the attention possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Telegrams from Vice-Consul Calvert.

Philippopolis, November 7, 1877, 2 P.M.

TO-DAY father and uncle of Gueshogln were put under arrest; they, with their sons previously imprisoned and their three families, will to-morrow be sent to Constantinople, together with 320 Bulgarians sentenced to exile, amongst whom 66 of leading inhabitants of Tchirpan and Husskeui, all under military escort. No time nor opportunity is given to Gueshoglus to put their affairs in order.

Philippopolis, November 7, 1877, 4 P.M.

Gueshogln families include twenty-four women and children. Would it be possible to prepare some accommodation for them at Constantinople? They have relations at Ortakeui who might perhaps put them up, but perhaps would be afraid without permission from Porte to go and receive them at railway station.

Philippopolis, November 8, 1877, 10 A.M.

Gueshoglus and other prisoners left this morning. Authorities have ordered lodging accommodation for them at Adrianople and Constantinople.

No. 170.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 1317.) *Therapia, November* 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Dupuis, furnishing military intelligence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, November 6, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that it being believed here that the Russians contemplate making some movement, demonstration, or raid in the neighbourhood of Hain-keui, a corps of observation has, I am informed, been detached from the forces under Raouf Pasha at Shipka, and forwarded to the threatened locality.

It is also rumoured in town that Mehemet Ali Pasha, the late Serdar Ekrem of the army of the Danube, will replace Shefket Pasha at Orkhanie.

The correspondent of the "Standard" telegraphs to London to-day intelligence to the following effect, viz., that although Osman Pasha is well provided with provisions, the Plevna road will have to be forced at any cost, to admit into Plevna 7,000 waggons, which had retrograded to Sofia, loaded with winter clothing, tents, and forage for the use of the troops; but that no engagement was expected to take place until the arrival of Turkish reinforcements.

The Governor-General informed me on Sunday that eleven battalions were daily expected from Constantinople, and that they would be forwarded to Orkhanie immediately on arrival.

On Sunday last Achmet Vefyk Pasha visited the Stafford House hospital for wounded soldiers outside the town, and expressed great satisfaction at the manner the establishment was conducted by the English director and surgeons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. H. DUPUIS.

No. 171.

Consul Carruthers to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 48.) *Taganrog, November* 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd October, marked No. 3, Political, covering copy of a communication transmitted by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa, with details of the manner in which the blockade of Russian ports has been eluded.

Pursuant to your Lordship's instructions, I requested Mr. Vice-Consul Lowe to forthwith report upon the validity of the statement furnished by Mr. Stanley's Berdiansk correspondent, and have now the honour to hand herewith a copy of Mr. Lowe's report relative thereto.

With reference to the allegation of Mr. Stanley's correspondent concerning several Greek ships arrived from Constantinople and occupied loading grain at Taganrog for foreign ports in the month of September last, that information is altogether erroneous.

From the 1st August last to the 31st October only two Greek ships arrived at this port from the Black Sea, viz., "Pandja Malteza," Captain Demetrius Moskakis; and "Angelle," Captain Alexander Yankis.

The first-mentioned took in a cargo of wheat, the last-named cleared out in ballast, as was duly reported by me the 17th September, No. 40, and 1st November, No. 46. These facts being based upon official data, obtained by me from the Taganrog Custom-house authorities, do not admit of refutation.

As regards the manner in which Greek vessels are said to have eluded the blockade, it appears to me that the expedient described by Mr. Stanley's informant is more ingenious

than practical. Ship's papers that might satisfy commanders of Turkish cruizers would scarcely be considered eligible by the Kertch Quarantine and Custom-house authorities for admitting such vessels into the Azoff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. CARRUTHERS.

Inclosure in No. 171.

Vice-Consul Lowe to Consul Carruthers.

Berdiansk, November 5, 1877.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge your despatch of the 31st ultimo, requesting information as to the reported manner in which the blockade of the Russian ports is eluded.

No foreign vessel has arrived at this port since the commencement of the blockade, I am therefore unable to ascertain the truth of the statement made to Mr. Consul-General Stanley.

A report was prevalent here that ships bound for the Azoff adopted the plan of calling at Trebizond, but upon my making dilligent inquiries at the time, and which I have again renewed, I cannot ascertain any known case in which the blockade has been eluded in the manner stated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. R. LOWE.

No. 172.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha. November* 16.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 15 *Novembre,* 1877.

SON Excellence Ahmed Pacha, Commandant de Roustchouk, informe la Sublime Porte que les Russes, en bombardant cette ville, continuent à ne pas tenir compte du Croissant Rouge qui couvre l'hôpital des militaires blessés. Un des murs de cet établissement a été complètement détruit.

Le Gouvernement Impérial se croit en devoir de signaler ce fait à l'attention des Puissances comme une nouvelle preuve de la manière dont la Russie respecte les dispositions de la Convention de Genève.

No. 173.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, November* 15, 1877.

INFORMATION has been received that Antivari is threatened by the Prince of Montenegro, and is expected to be taken shortly.

No. 174.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 486.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 15, 1877, 10 P.M.

CAN you send me any information of what is passing at Plevna from Bucharest or Russian head-quarters?

Rumour here that fighting has been going on for several days, but no intelligence reaches the Porte, in consequence of complete investment.

No. 175.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 16, 1877.

OFFICIAL telegram from head-quarters, communicated to me by M. Giers, states that Drs. Vachell and Douglas will be placed at the disposal of the British Embassy as soon as their health permits. Captain Coope representing himself a Colonel of Turkish gendarmerie, without any certificate from the Red Cross, is prisoner of war. Nichol, Turkish regimental doctor, will follow, as prisoner of war, the soldiers of his regiment.

No. 176.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November* 16, 1877, *noon.*

THERE is evidence that aggressive Servian movement spoken of last week is to be really attempted below Widdin, simultaneously with Russian operations, possibly next week. Militia and artillery are being sent in that direction. Russian subsidies coming in.

Weather splendid.

Sent to Therapia.

No. 177.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1877.

IT is rumoured that fighting has been going on for several days at Plevna. Inquire of Colonel Wellesley, and beg him to report by telegraph.

No. 178.

Lord Tenterden to M. Petrocochino.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1877.

WITH reference to your letter of the 7th instant, and to the representations which you have made respecting the blockade of the Russian ports in the Black Sea, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you that, if the numerous vessels reported to have been loading in Russian ports should be allowed to proceed to Constantinople or elsewhere through the line of blockade, Her Majesty's Government will feel it their duty to instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to intimate to the Porte that the blockade cannot be considered as effective within the meaning of the Declaration of Paris.

I am, however, to add that, from a despatch received from Mr. Layard yesterday, it appears that the proposal to grant passes to vessels on the condition of selling their cargoes of grain at Constantinople has been abandoned.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 179.

Lord Tenterden to M. Petrocochino.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1877.

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you that Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports that he is informed that vessels from Russian ports, bound for or passing through Turkish ports, are prohibited from lading with grain or provisions, in consequence of some Greek vessels having transported corn from the ports of the Sea of Azoff to Varna.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 180.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 1. Political.) *Smyrna, November* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting a remarkable demonstration of Greek sympathy, on the occasion of the funeral of a famous bravo and suicide named Galazzi.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 180.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Smyrna, November 7, 1877.

Sir,

THE great excitement or scandal of the past week has been the funeral ceremony of a Greek bravo named Galazzi, who, after a long and notorious career of infamy and bloodshedding, put an end to his own existence, some days ago, by stabbing himself, in a fit of drunkenness.

Notwithstanding the disreputable and lawless character of the deceased and the tragical way in which he came by his death, an enormous crowd of Greeks—estimated, so far as I was myself able to form an opinion, at some 4,000 or 5,000 persons, and preceded by the chief ministers or priests of their Church, with the archbishop himself at their head, decked out in full gala and surrounded by all the pomp and parade of their order—took part in the above celebration. In opposition, moreover, to established custom, the procession passed through a long and tortuous route, including the principal streets of the city, and was accompanied to the cemetery by a band of music.

To the above manifestation of Hellenic sympathy for a shameful memory, little importance appears to be attached by the great majority of this community; and I fear also that, whether under the influence of a feeling of contempt or apathy on the part of the Turkish authorities, it is scarcely probable that serious formal notice of these proceedings has been, or will be, taken.

Looking, however, to the unenviable reputation which a large body of the lower classes of Greeks at this place have attained, and to the fact that all street robberies, burglaries, and acts of brigandage committed in the city or neighbourhood are, when discovered, invariably traced to an Hellenic source—looking also to the bitter and undying hostility of Greeks to the Ottoman rule—I cannot but regard the incident as a demonstration of their organized condition and power, whenever it may seem convenient to them, to override or forcibly resist the controlling authority of the police.

The Pasha, with whom I have had some conversation on the subject of this despatch, expresses considerable annoyance at the sanction and co-operation given to the above proceedings by the highest dignitary of the Greek Church (who holds, at the same time, a seat in his Excellency's Provincial Council), and will, I doubt not, have already reported the matter to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 181.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 293.) *Athens, November 10, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I had a conversation yesterday with M. Tricoupi and that his language was most unsatisfactory. The Hellenic Government seem now determined to seize the first favourable opportunity for attacking Turkey, and I suspect Russia is inciting them to war.

I told M. Tricoupi that if the Greek Government involved their country in a war with Turkey, they could hardly call upon Her Majesty's Government for protection, after the advice they had given to Greece to maintain a neutral and pacific attitude.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 182.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 294. Confidential.) *Athens, November 10, 1877.*

My Lord,

IN the course of a conversation which I had yesterday with M. Tricoupi, his Excellency adverted to the successes which were now attending the Russian armies, and he gave me most decidedly to understand that he considered a crisis was approaching in the war, that the dismemberment of Turkey was at hand, and that a moment might come when the Greek troops must cross the frontier.

I said that I supposed Russia wished Greece to go to war, and M. Tricoupi answered that he thought she did. I then pointed out to him the great danger a war entered upon by Greece would expose her to, and I asked him how the Government was going to protect what already belonged to them, while they were endeavouring to acquire that which did not.

He said that the Turks might send a fleet and destroy some of their towns, but that they were not strong enough to occupy militarily any part of Greece.

I reminded him of the advice Her Majesty's Government had repeatedly given, that Greece should maintain a strictly neutral and pacific attitude, and I observed that the Greek Government could hardly turn to England for protection, if they involved their country in a war with Turkey in spite of the advice of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 183.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 295. Confidential.) *Athens, November 10, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I had yesterday a conversation with M. Tricoupi, Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the relations between Greece and Turkey, and I expressed the hope that all questions at issue between the two States were being satisfactorily settled; and I also informed his Excellency that I had that day heard from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that he had made a strong representation to the Porte as to the conduct of the Cretans and irregulars in Thessaly, and that his Excellency had suggested that if they could not be withdrawn they should at least be kept under discipline.

M. Tricoupi answered that the questions in dispute were not settled, and he instanced the Circular as to the closing of the Gulf of Arta to vessels after dark, and especially the erection at Punta of batteries by the Turks; but, he said, as they are erecting batteries there we shall erect batteries near to them, and mount heavier guns in them than those mounted by the Turks. I pointed out to him that this seemed to be a most imprudent act on the part of the Greek Government, but he appeared quite indifferent to its possible consequences, saying that the Greek Government had a perfect right to erect batteries on its own territory wherever it pleased, but that the Turks were violating Treaty stipulations by doing so at Punta, and that the Treaty was so clear upon this point that all discussion on the subject was superfluous.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 184.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 296.) *Athens, November 10, 1877.*

My Lord,

IN a conversation which I had yesterday afternoon with M. Tricoupi, I asked him if any decision had been come to by the Government as to the reserve forces.

His Excellency said that the military authorities were of opinion that the men of the first reserve now under arms had not yet received sufficient military instruction, and that it would be unadvisable at present to allow them to return to their houses, but that no decision had been come to as yet as to whether the second class of the reserves should be called in.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WINDHAM.

No. 185.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 297. Very Confidential.) *Athens, November 10, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 284, 287, and 291, of the 2nd, 6th, and 8th instant respectively, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I saw M. Tricoupi yesterday, and that he asked me if I would request your Lordship, quite unofficially, to take into consideration the wish of Greece to be admitted to a Conference should one take place for the settlement of the Eastern question.

M. Tricoupi said that he had not given, as I had heard, instructions to his Diplomatic Agents to raise the question, that he was most anxious to bring it forward unofficially, and above all he said he was anxious not to have a refusal, and that if a refusal was determined upon he should wish that the request should be looked upon as not having been made, and that no answer should be returned to it.

He said that from what he could learn there was now a feeling in Europe that Greece should be considered in the settlement of the Eastern question—a question which affected her interests most nearly; but he said he was most anxious above all to obtain the support of Her Majesty's Government, and their consent to Greece being admitted to the discussions which might take place for the settlement of that question.

I asked M. Tricoupi if acquiescence to such a request on the part of Her Majesty's Government would tend to encourage a pacific attitude in Greece, and he said that he thought it would, as the Government would then have something to bring forward as a proof to those who were opposed to a pacific policy that Greece was not entirely abandoned and left unconsidered.

I called again this afternoon upon M. Tricoupi, and I asked him whether it would not be better that the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London should call at your Lordship's office and moot this subject; but his Excellency replied that he thought that might be too official a manner of bringing it forward, and that he would rather that it should be laid before your Lordship by me.

M. Tricoupi reverted again this afternoon to the possibility of a rapid advance of Russia, and he said that he did not think that it could be in the interest even of England that Greece should always remain passive; that Greece was the "only card England had to play against the Slavs;" and that, moreover, Greece could not remain inactive if the Russians advanced and proceeded to take possession of, and to divide, territory which without doubt was the rightful inheritance of the Greek race.

The aspirations of the Greeks and the views of the Government have been fully laid before your Lordship by Her Majesty's Minister, Mr. Stuart, and my above-mentioned despatches have set forth the fears entertained in Greece at the present state of affairs. I

will not, therefore, dwell further upon these points; but I venture to bring unofficially to your Lordship's consideration, in compliance with M. Tricoupi's request, the question of Greece being admitted to any Conference which may be held for the settlement of the Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 186.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 298. Very Confidential.)
Athens, November 10, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 297 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the desire of Greece to be admitted to a Conference for the settlement of the Eastern question has been made known unofficially to the Italian Government.

The French Minister told me this yesterday, and M. Tricoupi confirmed it to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 187.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 16, 1877, 8 P.M.*

MOVEMENTS of Servian militia reported by my telegram of this day not confirmed yet. Belgrade Brigade meets here for inspection next Monday; after this it may be seen what Servia proposes to do next.

Sent to Therapia.

No. 188.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 487.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 17, 1877, 6·15 P.M.*

I HAVE succeeded in getting the three vessels mentioned in my telegram of 9th instant condemned, notwithstanding strongest influence brought to bear in favour of Greek owners. Ten more have been captured, including some Italians, which will also, I think, be condemned.

No. 189.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 488.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 17, 1877, 6 30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 15th instant, Gueshoffs are well treated here, and are not in prison, but only confined in Ministry of Police. It was originally intended to send them into Arabia, but on my representations their place of banishment has been changed to Aleppo, where they will, I am assured, be leniently treated. Endeavours are being made by the American Minister to have them simply sent out of the country. There is no danger of their being ill-treated in any way, although, as far as I learn, they are deeply compromised, and the feeling is very strong against them.

No. 190.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 17, 1877.*

GENERAL RODICH telegraphs to-day that a report has reached Zara that Antivari was taken last night by the Montenegrins. Precious intelligence received as to weakness of garrison render truth of the report probable.

The authorities in Austrian ports have been instructed to notify that the lighthouse on the coast is no longer lighted.

As far as I can ascertain Count Andrassy does not seem disposed to interfere for the present, and I am told that there is no harbour (excepting ?) on an open (beach ?) near the town, which is three miles from the sea.

No. 191.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Poradim, November 17, 1877.*

NO fighting of importance. Russians captured some Turkish trenches south of Plevna, which the Turks several times unsuccessfully endeavoured to retake.

Your Lordship can communicate with me direct by telegraph, there being a station at the Imperial head-quarters.

No. 192.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Biddulph.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 17, 1877.*

THE Porte is anxious to obtain information as to the number and condition of the Mussulman families carried away by the Russians from Armenia. Make such inquiries as you can, and report result.

No. 193.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 404.)
Foreign Office, November 17, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and in the course of conversation remarked to me that there was one passage in Lord Beaconsfield's speech at the Guildhall which as Russian Ambassador he felt bound to notice, though he had no instructions to do so, lest no argument should hereafter be drawn from his having allowed it to pass without comment.

The passage to which he referred was thus reported in one of the London daily journals:—

"I cannot forget that the Emperor of Russia, with a magnanimity characteristic of his truly elevated character, announced, on the eve of commencing this war, that his only object was to secure the safety and happiness of the Christian subjects of the Porte, and he pledged his Imperial word of honour, and not upon one occasion only, that he sought no increase of territory."

Count Schouvaloff said that he was not aware that the Emperor had, since the outbreak of the war, made any declaration which would preclude territorial cessions forming a portion of the eventual terms of peace.

I said in reply that without denying his statement I thought he would admit that any declarations such as those in question would not be affected by the circumstance that they were made either before or after the outbreak of hostilities, and that the language of the Emperor Alexander had throughout been to the effect that he was not waging a war

of conquest, but that the conflict had been begun and was carried on by Russia for other objects.

To this remark Count Schouvaloff took no objection.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 194.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 98. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, November 17, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 81 of the 18th ultimo, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* from which you will perceive that Mr. Layard has received no complaints that the provisions of martial law have been applied to British subjects in Turkey, and that he has received positive assurances from the Porte that the law would not be enforced against foreigners.

I have to request that you will inform M. Tricoupi accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 195.

The Earl of Derby to Colonel Wellesley.

Foreign Office, November 17, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 24th ultimo, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,† giving particulars as to the status and employment of the several British subjects who were stated by the Russian authorities to be serving in the Turkish army.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 196.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 489.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, November 18, 1877, 1 P.M.

FOLLOWING received from Consul Green, dated Scutari, November 17:—

"It has been reported to the authorities here that there are large bodies of men with the Montenegrin force operating in the Antivari district wearing the European dress, and an impression exists that they may be Garibaldians. The task of defending the long Albanian frontier with the existing force can hardly be expected to be effected with success."

No. 197.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 18.)

Poradim, November 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

KARS fell this morning at 8 o'clock, after twelve hours' fighting.

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* No. 75.

† No. 79.

No. 198.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 18.)

(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, November 18, 1877.

OFFICIAL telegram, dated Veranka, November 18, states that Kars was taken this morning at 8 o'clock by assault. Engagement lasted twelve hours. Losses not yet known.

No. 199.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 99. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, November 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that two battalions of Redif and a battery of field artillery left this lately for Sophia. Five other battalions from Bosnia and five from the Herzegovina are also under orders for the seat of war in Bulgaria. All the remaining cavalry force in Bosnia, consisting of four squadrons of the 3rd regiment, hitherto stationed at Prjedor, Banjaluka, and Bjelina, have likewise received orders to march, and will unite at Novi-Bazar with the fifth squadron of the same regiment.

The military force remaining in Bosnia, according to official statements, will thus consist of fifteen battalions of Nizam and Redif and fifty companies, 200 strong each, of Mustahfiz, besides three battalions of field artillery in the neighbourhood of the Servian frontier and one battery at Banjaluka manned by Mustahfiz and horsed by animals requisitioned in the district.

In the Herzegovina there remain twenty-one battalions of Nizam and Redif, and eight companies, about 200 strong each, of Mustahfiz.

The Asaker Mouavineh, or auxiliary troops, sent to the Herzegovina, as reported in my despatch, Political, No. 90, of the 28th September, have now all returned to their homes, but the Governor-General states that in the event of war with Servia he can count upon upwards of 20,000 of these irregular troops to take part in an invasion of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 200.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 100. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, November 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the new Deputies to the National Assembly have now been elected in this province and will shortly leave for Constantinople.

Bosnia and the Herzegovina, forming at present but one vilayet, send only eight Deputies instead of ten, as last time, of which four are Mussulmans and four non-Mussulmans. The elections have been conducted on precisely the same principle as in the spring, details of which I gave in my despatch No. 6 of the 8th February, to your Lordship.

The Mussulman Members elected are: Mustafa Bey Fazlipashich of Serajevo, an intelligent though bigoted member of the Ulema; the ill-famed Fehmi Effendi of Banjaluka; Kara Bey, the Mufti of Mostar, a man of great influence amongst his co-religionists, and who was exiled to Constantinople for the first twelvemonth of the present insurrection; and Mehmet Bey of Ljubushki, whom I mentioned to your Lordship in a late despatch as the most enlightened and liberal Mahommedan in Bosnia. The non-Mussulman Members consist of two Jews, Salomon and Yaver Effendis; one Catholic, Jovo Marusic; and one Orthodox Christian, Petrarki Effendi. The three last and Fehmi Effendi are now elected for the second time, having also been sent as Deputies from this province in February last.

The election of a Jew Deputy gave rise to much remark in the spring, as the total number of Jews in this province does not probably exceed 3,000, but the election this

time of two Jews is regarded as an irrefragable proof of the insincerity of the Turkish Government in its promises of reform. The letter of the regulation, that of the eight Deputies from Bosnia four are to be non-Mussulman, is certainly carried out, but the spirit of it is most unmistakeably evaded. It could never have been intended that the Orthodox Christian population, which in its normal state considerably outnumbers the Mussulman population, should only be represented by one Deputy and an insignificant community like the Jewish by two. Were the election perfectly free and by the mass of the people, nothing could of course be said against the return of Jew Deputies, but, conducted as it is, being purely Governmental, the local authorities can hardly be too severely censured for permitting, or rather I should say for bringing about, such a result.

I have, &c
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

P.S.—November 8. I have just been informed that Mustafa Bey, for family reasons, will not proceed to Constantinople, and will be replaced as Deputy by Ibraim Bey of Nevessin, in the Herzegovina.

E. B. F.

No. 201.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 61. Political.) *Salonica, November 7, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 24th October, 1877 (Inclosure No. 1), to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, containing two inclosures, No. 4 and No. 5, having reference to the acts of the "Ghegha" irregulars in Thessaly.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch of the 29th October, 1877, to Her Majesty's Ambassador (Inclosure No. 2), transmitting Mr. Brizzo, the First Dragoman of this Consulate's, report of the collision between the irregulars and the police at the village of Sintista, and the measures adopted by our Vali to restore order and punish the guilty parties.

Also (Inclosure No. 3) a copy of my despatch of the 3rd November, 1877, to Her Majesty's Ambassador, reporting the fête and dinner given by the Italian Colony to the Duke of Genoa; that all the reserves of all kinds are called in and orders received for preparing to receive in the hospital here wounded Turkish soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 201.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, October 24, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that by a despatch dated 17th October from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, I have received three inclosures in Greek, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, referring to the acts of the "Ghegas" and "Zeibecks." I inclose an abstract in English of No. 1 and No. 2 (Inclosure No. 4), divested of all extraneous matter foreign to the purpose, but I annex the originals in Greek, in case your Excellency should wish to refer to them.

Inclosure No. 5 is a translation into English of No. 3, being a petition from the inhabitants of Tirnovo to the authority at Larissa against the acts of the "Zeibecks," translated from the Turkish into Greek.

Mr. Suter adds that the new Mutessarif of Larissa has instituted a strict inquiry (upon the receipt of this petition) and expressed his determination to inflict severe punishment upon the culprits.

These Zeibecks are irregulars from Asia Minor, composed of Zeibecks, Circassians, Arnouts, and others, the sweepings of the prisons, of whom 800 infantry arrived at Volo on the 12th instant, swelling the number of Bashi-Bazouks at present in Thessaly over

5,600; and if the others mentioned as expected in his former letters come forward, the number of irregulars will be about 12,000.

The inclosures now sent to your Excellency supply full details, which your Excellency asked Mr. Suter for, and although there may be exaggeration in some of the circumstances, the main facts are beyond question, for constantly letters are being received here from so many sources, all confirmatory of the acts of the Bashi-Bazouk "Ghegas," and not a single dissent.

By a great flood which occurred about three weeks ago, the railway between Mitrovitza and Uscup has been totally destroyed, and three months are supposed to be necessary for the repairs before that part of the line can be made available.

I have, &c,
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 201.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, October 29, 1877.

Sir,

MR. VICE-CONSUL SUTER has replied to my instructions to furnish me all the information and evidence regarding the attack on the Greek Consul's residence at Larissa, which your Excellency instructed me to require from him.

Mr. Suter refers to his despatch, the substance of which I had the honour to transmit to your Excellency in my despatch of the 1st October, and declares that that information was procured from trustworthy eye-witnesses. That the irregulars did really beat the door and tried to force it, and he adds, "the Greek Consul never quitted his residence at any time during the late disturbances," so that there is no truth in that part of the account related to your Excellency by the Porte.

By a report just given me by the First Dragoman of this Consulate, I learn that the Ghega irregulars were about to enter the small towns of Veria and Naousta, but the Kaimakam of Veria negotiated a compromise by the payment to them of a certain sum of money by the inhabitants, and thus the blow was warded off till regular troops could be sent by Nousret Pasha, who has received orders from the Porte to that effect. But in the large village of Sintista about 70 Ghegas came, commanded by a man called Bairam Aga, and they killed two of the Christians. The Kaimakam of Naolitzee having been casually near there, was called in, and he arrived with a posse of police, who summoned them to deliver up the assassins.

This Bairam Aga refused to do, and fighting began, which lasted at intervals for two days, the houses being barricaded. Two officers and two policemen were wounded; one Christian killed and two wounded; nine Ghegas killed and two wounded, among whom was Bairam Aga; and then two companies of regular troops arrived, sent by Nousret Pasha, when the Ghegas were overpowered and their arms taken from them.

The inhabitants of Sintista sent the next day a telegram to thank the Vali for this timely assistance.

The town of Naousta, famous for its good wine, is still threatened with th invasion of a band of 100 Ghegas, who have deserted and become lawless outlaws.

By orders from the Porte our Vali has sent permission to the Christians of the different villages to fire upon and resist the irregular troops, whether Ghega or others, in self-defence, so that we may expect collisions and skirmishes to take place between them.

On the 24th instant an Ottoman steamer arrived and landed here, and went off to Volo and Prevesa, intending to land there also arms and ammunition and war stores.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 202.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 49.) *Tunis, November 9, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Bey has communicated to me, in a confidential form, the representations which the Acting French Consul-General made to him yesterday on the part of his Government.

M. Cassas stated that, as his Government had been informed that military preparations

were being made with the object of sending an expeditionary corps to Turkey, it gave it as its opinion, by way of friendly advice, that the best line of conduct His Highness could pursue was that of an expectant policy. The prospects of Turkey, at the present time, are from being brilliant; and the recent defeat in Asia Minor might even be the prelude of a complete and final catastrophe, entailing the disruption of Turkey as a political unit. By taking part in the war, His Highness would run all the perilous chances of the struggle at a moment when this struggle appeared to be taking a menacing aspect for the Mussulman cause. The Russian Ambassador at Paris had stated, in a conversation with M. Roustan, that so long as Tunis kept aloof, it had nothing to fear on the part of Russia. Independently of these considerations, which the French Government deemed it their duty to point out to His Highness, the Bey could not alienate or divest himself of his political independence by sending a contingent of troops to Constantinople; and the wisest and most proper course for him to pursue was to follow the example of the Sultan of Morocco, who has refused to send any aid to Turkey.

The Bey replied, that it was not the first time he had been called upon to furnish troops. To the Porte's first requisition he had returned for answer that the Regency was too poor to allow him to equip troops; but that he would send whatever sum of money he could collect, as a national offering. On the renewal of the requisition of the Porte, in lieu of troops, he had sent horses and an additional sum of money, at the same time that he pointed out, in more explicit terms, the exhausted state of his finances.

In answer to his observations, the Ottoman Government said, that it only wanted men, whom it engaged to equip and maintain while they were in its service. This offer left him no further excuse; besides which, His Highness went on to say, that it was impossible for a Mussulman Prince to refuse his assistance to the Caliphate at a moment when the very existence of Turkey was at stake. The greater the danger, the greater the duty for us to sacrifice our lives and property for the preservation of our religion. As a Prince and as a Vassal, I have duties to perform, and I have already engaged myself with the Sublime Porte. You say that I am independent, where are your proofs for this statement? My position has been defined by the Firman, independently of which I am also bound to take into consideration the sentiments of my people, and avoid an outburst of popular feeling, which might endanger my authority and prestige.

In thanking the Bey (who desired to know my opinion) for his confidential communication, I stated that nothing could be more correct than the explanations he had given to the French Agent regarding his obligations towards the Porte. Russia had never recognized him in any other capacity than as a Vassal of the Sultan. Instead, therefore, of being surprised that he should comply with the requisition of the Ottoman Government, she would be rather disposed to feel surprised that His Highness should fail to perform his duty towards his Suzerain at a time when the existence of his Empire is imperilled. But, be this as it may, Russia had far more important matters to preoccupy her attention than the attitude which the Regency conceives it to be its duty to assume in the present war.

Although France was one of the allies of Turkey in the Crimean War, yet she endeavoured, as in the present instance, to dissuade the Tunisian Government from furnishing its contingent of troops, notwithstanding that it was in the interest of the Allied Powers to add as much as possible to the numerical strength of their armies. From this circumstance as well as from the statement of the French Agent that he could not alienate his political independence, he could deduce the true reasons, which induce the French Government to advise him to refuse his complying with the requisitions of Turkey. Those reasons were founded upon its traditional policy to bring about the complete severance of the link which connected the Regency with the rest of the Ottoman Dominions. A peremptory refusal on the part of His Highness to fulfil his obligations towards his Suzerain would necessarily break that link; and as Her Majesty's Government had never failed to recommend to the Beys to maintain their connection and friendly relations with the Porte, I could not but follow up that recommendation by suggesting to the Tunisian Government to fulfil its obligations towards the Suzerain State, more especially as the Sultan had granted the right of succession to his family on the explicit condition that His Highness and his successors would discharge the duties which that right imposed upon them.

I respectfully venture to hope that the language I have employed in the present instance, is in the sense of your Lordship's instruction No. 21 of the 29th October last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 203.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 50.)

Tunis, November 11, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to state that in a private conversation with my Italian colleague he mentioned to me that M. Cassas, the acting French Consul-General, had spoken to him regarding the Tunisian contingent, with a view, it is to be presumed, of inducing M. Pinna to co-operate with him in dissuading the Regent from furnishing it; but that he had informed M. Cassas that he had on a previous occasion conveyed his personal observations on the subject to the Bey, and that he did not now exactly see how His Highness could avoid the obligations which the Firman imposed upon him.

As I am aware that the observations of M. Pinna on the occasion alluded to were nearly identical with those which the French Representative had made to His Highness, I took the opportunity to draw his attention to the following not improbable contingencies:—

I remarked that as the Mussulman population attributed the tardy compliance of the Tunisian Government with the demand of the Porte for troops to the interference of the foreign Representatives, there was reason to fear an outburst of a religious feeling if any fresh attempt was made to prevent the Bey from fulfilling his obligations to his Suzerain. And, secondly, should the Sultan acquire the conviction that the very existence of his Empire and faith are imperilled, he would not hesitate to resort to a levy, *en masse*, of all the Mahommedans, in which case there was nothing to hinder him from sending a Commissioner to Tunis to call upon all the Mussulmans to take part in a struggle of life and death. In such an eventuality, the Bey would be utterly powerless to suppress disorders, which might open the door to the occupation of the Regency by French troops, on the plea of preventing the disorders from extending to Algeria. I did not think it, therefore, prudent, under present circumstances, to run the risk of raising a fresh question.

M. Pinna, who has never ceased to apprehend French designs with reference to this country, appeared to be impressed with my observation; and I trust it will have the effect of dissuading him from giving any further advice to His Highness in the sense of our French colleague.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 204.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 834.)

Vienna, November 15, 1877.

My Lord,

TELEGRAPHIC intelligence has been received here that the Montenegrins have made an attack on the fortifications of Antivari, but I am told at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that no information has yet reached the Department as to the view which Count Andrassy may take of this attempt of Prince Nicolas to gain a footing on the coast.

Your Lordship is, however, aware that it has hitherto been the policy of Austria-Hungary to prevent the territory of the Principality being extended to the sea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 205.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 416.)

Berlin, November 17, 1877.

My Lord,

IN compliance with your Lordship's instructions, transmitted to me by telegraph on the 16th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of two despatches from Mr. Consul Hertslet, giving the substance of, and the source from which he derived the information that several trains of ammunition had passed the German frontier at Königsberg for the use of the Russian army. I regret that Mr. Hertslet did not state in his telegrams that he had obtained the information in question from the local newspapers, the same having been

reproduced here, as your Lordship will perceive by the inclosed précis of extracts from the German press.

Though I cannot vouch for the authenticity of these reports, they have nevertheless remained uncontradicted, and may have some value in testifying to the fact that the supply of war materials and stores to Russia by German contractors has not been allowed to pass unnoticed by the newspapers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 205.

Précis of Newspaper Extracts on the subject of War Material and Stores supplied to Russia from Germany.

"*Tilsiter Zeitung*," *letter dated October* 30.—THE traffic, chiefly consisting of timber, across the Russo-German frontier, is reported from Eydtkuhnen without abatement, and covered goods platforms have been erected with the object of facilitating the transport of corn. Yesterday a powder transport, consisting of about sixty waggons, arrived by the usual train at 11·48 A.M., and was forwarded at 1 o'clock to Wirballen, as the powder and ammunition was intended for the Russian army. This material was sent from a factory near Cologne, and was escorted to Wirballen by an officer and a detachment of the Rhenish artillery regiment.

In the month of September several newspapers remarked that a number of arms despatched from Wurtemburg to Greece had been seized in Luxembourg, the former Government having declared their neutrality.

"*Volks Zeitung*"—"*Berlin Tageblatt*."—It is said that the Russians have ordered 1,050 guns from Krupp's manufactory at Essen, and also that the Russian Government has ordered several thousand caps and hoods in Berlin, and that a contract has just been made for some thousands of sheep-skins.

"*National Zeitung*."—The reported despatch of German army surgeons to the seat of war resolves itself into this, that a number of military surgeons applied for unlimited leave and were allowed to serve in the war.

"*Posener Zeitung*."—The movement reported of two companies of infantry and one squadron of cavalry to the Russian frontier of Germany is said to have no other object than to prevent the introduction of cattle plague, but the result is that the inhabitants of Poland, who had withdrawn for the purpose of avoiding military service, have nearly all presented themselves, finding it impossible to pass the frontier into Prussia.

"*Weser Zeitung*."—Among the Russian officers wounded in Armenia was a former Prussian officer, a son of Count Keller.

"*Vorwärts*."—It has been stated that 2,000 German soldiers were lent to Russia by the German Government for purposes of instruction.

Ever since the beginning of the war, it is said, a German officer, Colonel Warneke, has been superintending three large Russian factories for preparing condensed forage for the army, in St. Petersburgh, Moscow, and Jecaterinoslaw. In the factory at St. Petersburgh 30,000 pounds of this material can be prepared daily. The forage is composed of oat, pea, and rye meal, &c., and when dried occupies only one-fifth of the space of oats, and is three times as nourishing.

"*Bürger Zeitung*."—Large orders from the Russian railways have lately occupied the German machine factories. Borsig's, Schwartzkopf's, and Wohlert's factories, the Hanover machine manufactory, the Vulcan in Stettin, the Chemnitz machine manufactory, and those at Munich and Erslingen have received the largest share of the orders for several hundred locomotives given by Russia.

"*Nordhausener Zeitung*," *November* 5.—The Russian Government has ordered from the Hartz Iron-casting Company 50 iron huts each to contain 100 men, to be ready by Christmas.

"*Berliner Tageblatt*."—The firm of Schwerhmann, in Berlin, has supplied, in round numbers, 100,000 tents to the Russian Government, for which it is said they were paid to the last farthing, and were promised a further order in case more tents were required. The firm of Reidlinger has also delivered 50,000 soldiers' tents.

"*Bürger Zeitung*."—In addition to the 20,000 soldiers' tents which have been already delivered, the Russian Government has given a very large order in Berlin for woollen blankets and jackets, together with several thousand field leather-covered bottles with leather slings; 250,000 infantry boots have also been ordered.

"*Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*."—It is reported from Witten, on the 9th October, that Herr Krupp has contracted with the Russian Government to supply every month of the next quarter at least 350 pieces of heavy ordnance.

"*Cologne Gazette*."—A correspondent in Odessa states that to complete the armament of the batteries there four 11-inch guns have been ordered from Krupp's manufactory, and that they will shortly arrive.

"*Weser Zeitung*."—The present war has exercised, as was to be expected, a strong influence on German industry, and not only in those branches especially devoted to the manufacture of war material.

The manufacturers of every description of railway stock have recently received large orders for the immediate supply of waggons and locomotives.

A large amount of railway rolling-stock has been lent by the State railways to the Roumanian Government.

The iron bridge for the Danube has arrived. It was ordered from eight Russian and two foreign manufactories. The cost is estimated at 1,300,000 roubles. The Westphalian and Belgian manufacturers undertook, it is said, to deliver the iron parts of the bridge in Warsaw at 5 r. 25 c. the pud, while the Russians, out of patriotism, made terms for 1 roubles per pud.

Deputy Richter, a leading member of the Prussian and German Chambers, announces in his correspondence to German newspapers that the military authorities have lately disposed most advantageously of the remainder of the Chassepots taken from the French by selling them, together with the ammunition belonging to them, to Berlin firms, which have sent them to Russia.

"*Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*."—The official Russian organs publish the repeatedly-mentioned fact of decorations having been granted to Major von Lignitz of the Prussian Staff. According to these accounts the Order of St. George was conferred on him "as a mark of the especial esteem of the Emperor and as a reward for gallantry displayed in the battles with the Turks at Ulfani and on the Shipka heights."

The Order of Wladimir, "as a mark of the Emperor's especial good wishes and as a reward for the gallant operations performed on the occasion of the crossing the Balkans on the 8th August."

The newspapers state that the above-mentioned officer received from the German Emperor the Order "pour le mérite" on the 25th of last month. A similar decoration has also been conferred on the Colonel of the Russian regiment which bears the name of the Emperor of Germany.

Several German newspapers announce that 200,000 cwt. of lead, together with several complete iron pontoon bridges, have been forwarded to Russia on the 27th ultimo.

Inclosure 2 in No. 205.

Consul Hertslet to Mr. Macdonell.

Königsberg, November 11, 1877.

Sir,

IN obedience to your telegram of this day's date I have the honour to state that I have on several occasions heard the subject alluded to (of gunpowder being supplied to the Russians) spoken of in public localities and described as a "Neutralitäts Bruch," *i.e.* a breach of neutrality, and having seen it likewise reported as a fact in the local newspapers, I thought it would be best to report, in case Her Majesty's Government should not be aware of it.

I beg to refer to the inclosed extracts and translations of same, which I cut out of the local paper when I observed them.

I understand likewise that the merchants here have, on this occasion, not received any prohibition as to forwarding arms or any sort of contraband.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. J. HERTSLET.

Inclosure 3 in No. 205.

Extracts from the Königsberg Evening Paper of September 19, 1877.

(Translation.)

POWDER TRANSPORT TRAIN.—The Tilsit newspaper has been written to from here under date 15th instant. This morning at about 3 o'clock the first of the powder transports which were advised some time ago and are destined for Russia arrived here with the train No. 317 at this town, and after stopping for 38 minutes, continued the journey to Eydtkuhnen. The train was composed of twenty-four waggons belonging to the Cologne-Minden Railway, and was so arranged that between every seven waggons several protective waggons belonging to the Royal East Railway (Ostbahn) were introduced. The baggage waggon was immediately behind the locomotive, and behind the baggage waggon several empty waggons before the waggons marked with two black flags with a white "P" in the middle followed. The end was formed by a passenger carriage to be occupied by the military commander which accompanied it, and which was composed of an officer and men of the Rhenish seventh foot artillery regiment. The powder comes from a manufactory between Coblenz and Cologne. The train will arrive at about 11 in the forenoon at Eydtkuhnen, remains there till the afternoon, and will then be taken to Wirballen, in order to be re-loaded to proceed on further.

Eydtkuhnen, October 30, 1877.

A gunpowder transport arrived yesterday at Eydtkuhnen with the regular railway train No. 317 at 11·48 in the forenoon which was composed of sixty axles and was formed by railway waggons of the Cologne-Minden Railway and by waggons of the Royal East Railway (Ostbahn) as protective waggons. Near 1 o'clock in the afternoon the train was conducted from Eydtkuhnen across the Russian borders to Wirballen, to be re-loaded there, as the powder and other articles of munition were destined for the Russian army. The same are from a manufactory on the Rhine in the neighbourhood of Cologne, and were escorted by an officer and the requisite accompanying men of the Rhenish artillery regiment, to Wirballen; all the waggons had on the right and left side black flags hoisted with a large white "P" in Latin letters.

Inclosure 4 in No. 205.

Consul Hertslet to Mr. Macdonell.

Königsberg, November 16, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 15th instant, which has my attention.

I am not able to state whether any further supplies have gone to Russia, but in the article of the paper of the 19th September you will observe the words "the first of the transports which were advised some time ago."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. J. HERTSLET.

No. 206.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 490.) *Therapia, November 19, 1877, 11 A.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

I SHOULD be glad if you would allow me to send Mr. Longworth to report on the state of Thessaly and Epirus.

I attach much importance to this.

No. 207.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, November 19, 1877, 5·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of 16th instant, inform Russian Government that Captain Coope is one of several officers engaged to serve in organizing the Turkish police who were living at Constantinople without occupation, and at Mr. Layard's suggestion were employed in the distribution of relief to the fugitive Mussulman and Christian women and children.

Mr. Layard states that the exertions of Captain Coope and his brother officers in affording assistance and relief to many thousands of suffering and starving human beings were of great value.

No. 208.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, November 19, 1877, 5·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL telegram from Russian head-quarters, communicated to Lord A. Loftus, states that Captain Coope, representing himself a Colonel of Turkish Gendarmerie, without any certificate from Red Cross, is prisoner of war, and that Nichol, Turkish regimental doctor, will follow as prisoner of war the soldiers of his regiment.

No. 209.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, November 19, 1877, 5·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AUTHORIZE you to send Mr. Longworth to Thessaly and Epirus, as proposed in your telegram No. 490 of 19th instant.

No. 210.

*Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Eastern Association.**

Foreign Office, November 19, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to previous correspondence relative to the case of Messrs. Guesthoff, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reports, under date of the 9th instant, that those persons with their families have left Philippopolis under escort for Constantinople.

I am to add, that orders have been sent by the Porte to the authorities at Adrianople to treat the prisoners and their families kindly; and Mr. Layard is further assured, that upon their arrival at Constantinople they will have proper accommodation, and will receive all the attention possible.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 211.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Petrocochino.

Foreign Office, November 19, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 16th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reports by telegraph that the following vessels: "Neasona," "Alexandros," "Aghios Charalambos," have been condemned by the Prize Court at Constantinople.

* Similar letters were addressed to Mr. Potter, Mr. J. Moore, the Mayor of Manchester, and the Mayor of Leeds.

Mr. Layard adds, that ten more vessels have been captured, including some Italians, and that it is probable that they will also be condemned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 212.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 491.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 19, 1877, 6·15 P.M.*

M. TRICOUPI has instructed Greek Minister to renew peremptory demand for the release of vessel captured by the Turkish authorities of Rhodes, and to threaten reprisals in case of refusal. Circumstances of case will be found in Vice-Consul at Rhodes' despatches inclosed in my despatches to you of 16th and 24th October last, and in Commander Day's (of the "Condor") report, which is probably at the Admiralty. Of the three vessels seized two have been released; the third is before Turkish Tribunal.

Greek Minister has requested me to urge upon the Porte to accede at once to the demand of the Greek Government, to avoid grave consequences.

Porte alleges that case being before the Tribunal, should not be thus dealt with. I should be glad of your instructions.

No. 213.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

Yiflis, November 19, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
IN reply to your Lordship's telegram, altogether 4,000 persons come from Armenia; 500 families desire to return. Particulars mentioned in my despatch of October 2, sent by messenger yesterday.

Kars taken: consequently force against Erzeroum may soon be 110 battalions, exclusive of the garrison required for place taken.

New division, the 20th, routing.

No. 214.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 492.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 20, 1877, 10·15 A.M.*

COOPE is in the Turkish Gendarmerie, but not being employed, as it is not yet formed; he accompanied Colonel Blunt to distribute relief to the fugitives in the Philippopoli district. He subsequently, I am informed, joined a Red Crescent Ambulance, with a view to organizing a party for carrying wounded off the field on stretchers. He has not, to my knowledge, taken any part whatever in military operations.

Repeated to St. Petersburgh.

No. 215.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, November 20, 1877, 1·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
ASK Russian Government whether English doctors Buckley and Casson, who were in Kars when it was invested, and were unable to leave on account of the illness of the former, will be allowed to leave.

No. 216.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Ricketts.

Foreign Office, November 20, 1877, 5·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of 5th instant, can you state where Drs. Buckley and Casson are?

No. 217.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, November 20, 1877, 6·5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram No. 491 of November 19, you may state to the Turkish Government that as there does not appear, so far as Her Majesty's Government know, to be any proof of the vessel having been engaged in piracy, it would, in their opinion, be the wiser course, in the present state of affairs, to release her at once.

No. 218.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 746.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 20, 1877.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 496 of the 19th instant, in which you inform me that the Greek Minister at Constantinople has been instructed again to make a peremptory demand for the release of a Greek vessel recently seized by the Turkish authorities at Rhodes, under the circumstances reported in your despatches Nos. 1240 and 1249 of the 16th and 24th ultimo; and to threaten reprisals in the event of a refusal.

You add that the Greek Minister has requested you to urge the Porte to accede to the demands of the Greek Government, and you request instructions as to the course which you should pursue.

In reply, I have to inform you that you may state to the Turkish Government that, as there does not appear, so far as Her Majesty's Government know, to be any proof of the vessel in question having been engaged in piracy, they are of opinion that it would be the wiser course in the present state of affairs to release her at once.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 219.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 21.)

Constantinople, le 15 Novembre, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)
LE Cabinet d'Athènes et les journaux Helléniques signalent depuis quelque temps de prétendus méfaits de la part de nos troupes irrégulières en Epire et en Thessalie. Je vous transmettrai par courrier les rapports des autorités locales qui vous démontreront l'exagération des bruits répandus par nos voisins. Toutes ces nouvelles ne sont mises en circulation par le Gouvernement Hellénique que dans le but de justifier devant la campagne parlementaire qui se prépare à Athènes l'attitude belliqueuse qu'il observe depuis quelque temps à notre égard, et pour gagner l'opinion publique en faveur de la question Hellénique qu'on cherche à soulever.

No. 220.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 21.)

(No. 494.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 20, 1877, 6 P.M.

PORTE has received information from Governor of Tricala that a band of forty Greeks has left Agrapha in the direction of Demoko and Tchataldja.

(Telegraphed to Athens.)

No. 221.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 21.)

(No. 495.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 20, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

THE Sultan has issued an Iradé to the effect that all foreign ships detained in the Danube are free to leave, if the Russian Government will permit.

No. 222.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 21.)

Tehran, November 21, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

MERVE Turkoman Chiefs now here are negotiating with Persian Government, and an arrangement on basis referred to in my despatch No. 136 may probably be concluded. Chiefs state that failing an arrangement with Persia they have resolved not to resist if attacked by Russia, but to submit their allegiance to her when required to do so.

Communicated to India.

No. 223.

Sir A. Buchman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 21.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, November* 21, 1877.

ON my referring to-day, in a conversation with Count Andrassy, to the recent successes of the Montenegrins, his Excellency said that it was one thing to make conquests and another to keep them. He thought it would be extremely difficult for the Austro-Hungarian Government to intervene at present; (but) Prince Nicholas had been told before he began his military operations that he must not expect on the restoration of peace to obtain a greater increase of territory than was recommended by the Conference. His Excellency said that the Prince was therefore carrying on hostilities from which he could gain nothing.

With respect to new levies ordered by the Porte, Count Andrassy does not expect that any further important reinforcements to Turkish armies can be raised in Asia Minor.

No. 224.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 627.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 16, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship further official documents which have appeared in this morning's "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" relating to the atrocities committed by the Turks on the wounded Russians at the taking of Telisch.

It would appear that these heartrending statements are confirmed by the English who visited the field of battle after the action, and who found that all the wounded Russians had been killed.

It is to be feared that these barbarous acts on the part of the Turks will infuriate the Russian soldiery, and lead to retaliation of the most sanguinary nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of November $\frac{4}{16}$, 1877.

Copie d'un Office de M. Nélidow à Son Altesse le Chancelier de l'Empire, en date de Bagot, le $\frac{26 \text{ Octobre}}{7 \text{ Novembre}}$ 1877.

ME référant à mon humble rapport d'hier, j'ai l'honneur de placer sous les yeux de votre Altesse trois noveaux documents relatifs aux atrocités commises sur nos blessés de l'affaire du $\frac{14}{26}$ à Télisch.

J'ai, &c.

Protocole.—(Traduit du Russe.)

Nous soussignés, étant arrivés sur le champ de bataille pour recueillir les cadavres des soldats du régiment de Chasseurs de la Garde Impériale tués dans l'affaire du $\frac{13}{25}$ Octobre près de Télisch, avons constaté: que tous les cadavres ont été mis à nu; même les croix métalliques ont été enlevées. Plusieurs de ces cadavres ont été excessivement défigurés; d'autres, les plus mutilés, étaient à peine cachés sous une couche de terre jetée à la hâte. Beaucoup de ces malheureux, qui n'avaient reçu pendant l'engagement que des blessures non mortelles, ont été torturés et même achevés après; quelques-uns parmi eux avaient jusqu'à dix coups de sabre, d'autres avaient la gorge coupée. Il a été remarqué que tous ceux qui avaient porté des galons, et qu'on prenait évidemment pour des supérieurs, avaient subi de plus grandes tortures. On leur a découpé des croix sur la tête, arraché des lambeaux de chair à l'endroit des galons. En général on les a torturés encore vivants, ce dont on pouvait juger d'après les visages portant des traces de souffrances.

Impossible de décrire toutes les infamies des Turcs! Il suffit d'énumérer seulement les faits, qui parleront d'eux-mêmes, sans commentaires:

1. On trouvait des cadavres ayant la tête, les bras et les oreilles coupés.
2. Plusieurs avaient des lambeaux de chair enlevés, leurs poitrines portaient des inscriptions Turques, quelques-uns avaient même les côtés entièrement découpés et enlevés.
3. Souvent on voyait des cadavres ayant les côtés, les bras et les pieds brûlés.
4. Beaucoup avaient des croix découpées à coups de sabre sur la tête.
5. Plusieurs avaient la tête détachée du tronc et la plupart des corps avaient reçu d'innombrables coups de sabre et de baïonnette.

Nous certifions ce qui précède en qualité de témoins oculaires.

Télisch, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Octobre*, 1877.

(Suivent les Signatures:)

Du Chef de la 1re Brigade de la 3e Division de la Garde,
(Signé) Général-Major PHILOSOPHOW
Du Général-Major de la Suite de Sa Majesté l'Empereur,
STROUKOW.
De l'Aide-de-Camp de l'Empereur,
Capitaine BOGAIEVSKY.
De l'Aumônier du Régiment Séménovsky,
KRUKOW.
Du Médecin du Régiment de Chasseurs,
FAVORSKY.
De l'Artiste VÉRESTCHAGUINE.

(Et de six autres, Officiers des Régiments de la Garde.)

Pour traduction conforme à l'original Russe:
Le Directeur de la Chancellerie Diplomatique de
Son Altesse Impériale le Commandant-en-chef,
(Signé) NÉLIDOW.

Informations recueillies, d'ordre de M. l'Aide-de-Camp Général Gourko, par son Officier d'Ordonnance le Prince Tsérételew, au sujet des Cruautés commises sur nos Soldats Blessés à Télisch, le $\frac{12}{24}$ *Octobre.*—(Traduit du Russe.)

Déjà, à cette date quelques-uns de nos officiers ont vu comment les Turcs tuaient nos blessés pendant que le régiment de Chasseurs de la Garde se retirait de Télisch. Cela a été entièrement confirmé plus tard.

A la prise de Télisch, le $\frac{11}{23}$ Octobre, on n'y a pas trouvé un seul de nos blessés. Les corps se sont trouvés enterrés à la hâte et pour la plupart mutilés, ayant les oreilles et le nez coupés, quelques-uns même décapités.

Aux questions qui lui furent posés à ce sujet, le Pacha qui avait commandé à Télisch, Ismaïl-Hakki, a répondu d'abord qu'il n'en savait rien, qu'il n'avait pas vu nos blessés et que s'ils ont été tués, cela doit avoir été fait par les Circassiens et les Bachi-Bouzouks, qui ont fui de Télisch le 16 Octobre. Mais ensuite il a dû avouer que les officiers Turcs avaient cherché à empêcher les soldats de commettre des cruautés et avaient même tiré sur eux. Toutefois, il n'avait pas reçu de prescriptions spéciales de son Gouvernement sur la manière de traiter les prisonniers et les blessés.

Les officiers Turcs ont déposé dans le même sens. Ceux du tabor de Bosnie ont prétendu que les auteurs des cruautés étaient des Arnaoutes qui n'obéissaient point à leurs ordres.

On a trouvé sur les officiers et les soldats faits prisonniers des objets qui avaient appartenu à nos officiers et soldats du régiment de Chasseurs de la Garde. Ainsi, un des soldats du tabor de Bosnie était en possession du porte-monnaie et de l'argent que portait le Capitaine Basilevsky, blessé le $\frac{12}{24}$ Octobre.

A part cela, quatre étrangers pris à Télisch, le sujet Français Lemaudo et les sujets Anglais Coope, Baird, Douglas, et Vachell, ont déposé unanimement qu'étant arrivés le $\frac{13}{25}$ Octobre à Télisch et s'étant rendus sur le champ de bataille, ils ont trouvé que tous nos blessés étaient déjà tués. Plusieurs d'entre eux n'avaient été blessés que légèrement; mais on leur avait coupé plus tard les oreilles, le nez, et on avait découpé des morceaux de leur peau. Les cadavres étaient mis à nu. Pas un seul blessé Russe n'a été apporté à l'hôpital du Croissant-Rouge. Ils n'avaient en général vu nulle part de prisonniers ou blessés Russes. Ils ont entendu dire qu'il y en avait quatre à Sophia.

Les dépositions de l'Anglais W. Lesser Coope ont été particulièrement détaillées et circonstanciées. Quoiqu'entré dans la gendarmerie internationale que les Turcs organisaient, il a été le premier à raconter avec indignation ce qu'il avait vu et était prêt à le confirmer par sa signature. Il a dit que le Dr. MacKellar, parti le lendemain de Télisch, allait écrire dans les journaux au sujet des cruautés qu'il avait vues.

Il résulte de ce qui précède:—

1. Que les troupes Turques n'ont pas enlevé nos blessés;
2. Que la plupart de nos blessés avaient été mutilés et tous tués sans exception;
3. Que les autorités militaires Turques n'avaient pris aucune mesure pour sauver un moins un seul de nos blessés et qu'elles n'avaient reçu à ce sujet aucune instruction de Constantinople;
4. Que les étrangers, au service de la Porte, confirment par leurs dépositions les faits qui ont été constatés par des recherches et des enquêtes.

Pour copie conforme à l'original:
Le Premier Aide-de-Camp, Capitaine de la Garde,
(Signé) IGNATIEW.

Pour traduction conforme à l'original Russe:
Le Directeur de la Chancellerie Diplomatique de
Son Altesse Impériale le Commandant-en-chef,
(Signé) NÉLIDOW.

Extrait en Traduction d'un Rapport adressé à Son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Commandant-en-chef, par le Général-Major Strukow, de la suite de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, en date de Médovane, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Octobre*, 1877.

La férocité et la barbarie des Turcs ont dépassé ici (à l'attaque de Télisch par les Chasseurs de la Garde dans la journée du $\frac{12}{24}$ Octobre), tout ce qui a été constaté jusqu'à présent à cet égard. J'ai trouvé, il est vrai, peu de têtes détachées du tronc, de mains et de pieds coupés, comme c'était le cas lors de notre expédition dans les Balkans; en revanche, cette fois tous les cadavres portaient à la gorge ou à la nuque une profonde

entaille. Plusieurs montraient les traces nombreuses de coups de yatagan à la tête ou au visage, d'autres avaient le nez ou les oreilles enlevés; des sous-officiers étaient marqués d'une croix sanglante à la tête; quelques corps avaient été littéralement déchiquetés avec les côtes mises à nu. La position de la redoute ne permettant pas l'enlèvement pendant le combat de nos blessés, leurs restes nus et mutilés furent retrouvés lorsqu'elle tomba entre nos mains, enfouis sous une légère couche de terre, tandis que çà et là les corps des hommes morts sur le coup gisaient sans sépulture et pour la plupart du temps intacts. Comme les Turcs n'ont pas l'habitude d'ensevelir nos morts, il devenait évident pour nous qu'ils avaient cherché cette fois à dérober aux yeux les restes de leurs victimes. Pour répondre aux accusations dont il a été l'objet, l'ennemi a cessé de décapiter; mais, loin de renoncer à ses sauvages pratiques à l'égard des blessés, il y a ajouté un raffinement dont il semble avoir lui-même honte.

Pour traduction conforme à l'original Russe:
Le Chef de la Chancellerie Diplomatique de
Son Altesse Impériale le Commandant-en-chef,
(Signé) NÉLIDOW.

No. 225.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 22.)

Poradin, November 19, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
THREE hundred guns and 6,000 prisoners taken at Kars.

No. 226.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 22.)

Belgrade, November 22, 1877, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE no confirmation of this from Her Majesty's Ambassador, but it is reported that Servian Agent has made a communication to Porte preparatory for rupture; indeed, everything that I hear confirms my long-existing conviction of intention to co-operate with Russian and Roumanian forces as soon as these approach the frontier. A movement of the latter in the direction of Widdin, reported this morning, leads me to look upon a Servian aggression as imminent.

Russian Representative here, among other assurances given to Prince Milan, says that he need have no fear of the Turkish force on the side of Bosnia; this cannot have any meaning, unless his Government expects Austria to occupy that province.

No. 227.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 22.)

Athens, November 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
M. TRICOUPI has informed Turkish Minister, with respect to alleged departure of a band of 40 Greeks from Agrapha, that the Greek Government had no information on the subject, but that they would institute inquiries at once and fulfil their duty.
Sent to Constantinople.

No. 228.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 22.)

Bucharest, November 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
A ROUMANIAN force has captured Rahova after stiff conflict.
Another detachment has burnt Lom-Palanka and destroyed some Turkish shipping.

No. 229.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 22, 1877.*

GIERS will telegraph to Kars inquiry about English doctors. I have addressed a note concerning them. I have represented non-military character of Coope and communicated Layard a telegram.

No. 230.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 22, 1877, 7 P.M.*

WE are anxious to know what impression has been produced at Constantinople by the fall of Kars.

The Russian Ambassador here affirms that Plevna must be taken or surrendered in a few days, and professes to disbelieve in the possibility of protracted resistance by Turkey. I have doubts, however, whether the confidence of success expressed by his Excellency is sincere.

What is the state of the case in your judgment?

We are willing to do what is possible in the way of mediation, but I fear the Russian demands are likely to be far in advance of what the Porte is prepared to concede.

No. 231.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 99.) *Foreign Office, November 22, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 297, Very Confidential, of November 10, reporting a conversation with M. Tricoupi on the 9th instant, when his Excellency requested you to bring unofficially before Her Majesty's Government the wish of the Greek Government to be admitted to any Conference which may be held for the settlement of the Eastern question; and in reply I have to state to you that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it is premature to offer any opinion as to the assembling of a Conference, but that should one be hereafter convened, and any States not parties to the Treaty of Paris admitted to it, the claims of Greece to be represented would receive consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 232.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 100.) *Foreign Office, November 22, 1877.*

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 294, Confidential, of November 10, has been received, in which you report the language held to you by M. Tricoupi as to the relations between Turkey and Greece, and the possibility that Greece might take part in the present war, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the remarks which you addressed to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs on that occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 233.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 748.) *Foreign Office, November 22, 1877.*

Sir,

MR. CONSUL READE has forwarded to me a copy of his despatch No. 74 to your Excellency reporting his proceedings at Rustchuk, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that Mr. Reade's conduct may be approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 234.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 68. Political.) *Trebizond, October 30, 1877.*

My Lord,

AS complement to the information which I have transmitted from time to time to your Lordship on the subject of the Abazian emigration, I have the honour to inclose copy and translation of an address, dated 30th ultimo, but procured by me only lately, which was presented by the Abazian Chiefs to the Governor-General of Trebizond, for communication to the Porte.

This document shows the spirit animating the Chiefs of the Abazians, and can be taken also as containing the expression of the feelings of the emigrants in general, for even admitting that all those who presented themselves at the Italian Consulate were willing to return to their country, they represent only 5 or 6 per cent. of the total number of those who have immigrated in Turkey. But, in spite of the declaration to the contrary of the Abazian Chiefs, no doubt can be entertained as to there being several real Christians among the emigrants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Petition addressed by the Abazian Chiefs who immigrated in Turkey to the Governor-General of Trebizond.

(Translation.)

AS it is known to your Excellency and to everybody else, we, Abazians, were living at Soukoum Kaleh and in the surrounding country, and were professing long since the Mahommedan faith. However, ever since that our country has fallen under the iniquitous and tyrannical rule of the Russian Government, we were treated with the same tyranny and inhumanity as the Mussulmans of the other places conquered by them.

They appointed Governors and priests, who subjected us to all kinds of vexations with a view to thwart us in the exercise of our religion, and so long as we remained faithful to our holy Mahommedan faith, we were murdered, stripped of all our property, and exiled; in a word, treated in a way contrary to all principles of humanity.

While we were thus situated, God, wishing no doubt to deliver us from our misfortunes, allowed the war to break out. His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, Chief of the Islam, and our august Master and Sovereign, having sent troops, we availed ourselves of the favourable opportunity of the capture of Soukoum Kaleh to take revenge on the enemy of our religion; we joined the Imperial army, fought, and worsted our foes.

Having heard that after having inflicted adequate punishment on them, the Imperial troops were about to evacuate Soukoum and the surrounding country, we decided to emigrate to the Ottoman Empire, in order to find security for our faith and to evade a general massacre, as well as the continual acts of violence used towards our religion by the Russian Government, which compelled us to embrace the Russian creed; we therefore, of our full and free will, addressed a demand to the Commander of the Turkish troops, begging to be removed to another country.

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan having been graciously pleased to take our request into consideration, allowed us to emigrate to his dominions; in consequence whereof we thank God, and pray for the prosperity of our august Sovereign who restored us to

freedom; being all Mussulmans, we came to Turkey for the purpose of securing our religion and our tranquillity.

But while we considered ourselves happy, the Russian subjects residing at Trebizond, moved by malevolence against us for having emigrated, and with a view to render service to their Government, seem to have excited a few of our inexperienced youths towards Christianism, so far that it was given out that some of us were really Christians, and that in consequence a petition should be addressed to the Representative of the Russian Consulate at Trebizond; and to our great surprise and regret we have heard that some documents to this effect have been drawn up.

But even admitting for a moment that, in consequence of the underhand dealings mentioned above, they succeed in enlisting the ignorants who have made an application, their complaints will remain without general results. According to the laws of the Ottoman Empire, every individual is free to follow the religion he chooses, and if, contrary to all probabilities, a few among us prefer to follow Christianism and to return to Russia, the Ottoman Government will certainly not prevent them to do so.

We therefore beg your Excellency to take into consideration our position, and to point out to us, with as little delay as possible, the spots where we are to settle. In the meantime, we beg that the Imperial Government should obtain the removal to Turkey of many of our children and relatives, as well as of other individuals of our tribe, who, having been detained by the Russians on the road, have been unable to join us on the sea-shore when we were emigrating.

In a word, we do not know, nor conceive, that there is any one among us who is Christian, or who wants to return to Russia, but declare that we, being all Mussulmans, from father to son, are glad to have emigrated, and consider the malevolent publications which have taken place as being the work of Russians.

We therefore beg your Excellency to transmit the present petition to the Porte, informing it of what has occurred, and that while we have abandoned our country and our property to take refuge in the Ottoman Empire for tranquillity's sake, we cannot accept that the Russian subjects should, even here, assume to interfere, either personally or through others, with and trouble our national liberty.

In case that these individuals should be permitted to continue to create similar disturbances, we protest against the Mussulman nation, under the laws of which we have placed ourselves; and as it may happen that the same intrigues which have taken place at Trebizond may be renewed in the other places where we are going to settle, we beg that your Excellency should kindly submit the details of the case to the Porte, to prevent our being troubled in the future.

(Signed) SULEIMAN BEY.
HASSAN BEY.
LISHAK BEY.
DODA BEY.
HALIL BEY.
SHIRIN BEY.
&c. &c.

22 *Ramadan*, 1294 (*September* 30, 1877).

No. 235.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 111. Political.)

Scutari, November 13, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that yesterday, about noon, alarming news appeared to have been received by the authorities here, as Colonel Hodo Bey, the Chief of the Police, galloped through the bazaar which forms, on the borders of the lake, a suburb of Scutari, calling upon all Mohamedans to follow him, as the infidel Christians (Montenegrins) had approached in menacing numbers close to Muric.

The appeal met with an immediate and favourable response, and now no Mohamedans capable of bearing arms are to be seen in the streets of Scutari.

I believe that about 600 men embarked with Hodo Bey for Muric, and those who have not gone are keeping in their houses not to make apparent their default.

From what I have been able to gather from different sources, the authorities declining to furnish any information, it seems that yesterday morning a considerable Montenegrin force made its appearance near the fort of Sutorman, at a short distance from Antivari,

and that it commenced bombarding it with two guns, whilst another force advanced on the Mahomedan village of Todjemile, which it burnt, and then approached Antivari.

All the troops and most of the inhabitants of the latter place capable of bearing arms had, on the first signal of attack, gone to Sutorman, so that the remainder are said to have been obliged to retire for protection from the town to within the walls of its citadel, which is an ancient and weak fortification.

Two or three hundred Mustaphiz and invalids who were in Scutari, upon the receipt of the above news, were immediately marched towards Antivari, but, if the Montenegrins are in the force asserted, the dispatch of these men will hardly prevent Antivari from falling into their hands.

Although the Turkish authorities persistingly denied it until yesterday afternoon, the bombardment of Podgoritza and Spuz by the Montenegrins commenced on the morning of the 10th, but with what result I have as yet been unable to ascertain.

The Vali, who had been summoned to Podgoritza by Ali Saib Pasha a few days ago, was returning to Scutari yesterday, when he noticed from the deck of his steamer that fighting was going on at Muric, and he at once proceeded there and took command of the Scutari and other Albanian irregulars who form the Turkish force on the western shores of the lake.

If the advance of the Montenegrins in the direction of Sutorman, Antivari, and Muric, is not merely a feint intended to withdraw some of the troops from Podgoritza and Spuz, and is composed of 3,000 or 4,000 men, our communications with civilized Europe, viâ the roadstead of Antivari, will probably very shortly be interrupted, and the Montenegrins may even appear on the heights overhanging Scutari, on the western bank of the River Boyana.

It appears that a considerable number of Montenegrins entered the Turkish territory near Spiza five days ago, and cut the telegraph line with Austria, but, with the carelessness which distinguishes everything under Turkish rule, no notice was sent to Scutari of the presence of the enemy on Turkish territory, nor did the authorities attempt to discover the cause of the interruption of the telegraph.

Messengers have been sent to summon the Roman Catholic mountaineers to Scutari; the Montenegrin successes, however, may induce them to avail themselves of the excuse afforded by the heavy rains which are commencing, to remain in their mountains.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 236.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 112. Political.)

Scutari, November 13, 1877.

My Lord,

SINCE writing my despatch Political, No. 111, of this day's date, news has reached this that the Montenegrins have occupied the landing-place of the roadstead of Antivari, where the Government Custom-houses and the Austro-Hungarian Post Office and Steamboat Agency are situated, consequently our usual means of communicating with other countries are interrupted, and I am sending my despatches to Durazzo with the hope that they will be in time for the steamer which will leave that port for Corfu to-morrow evening.

The Austrian Consul-General offered to the Pasha here to ask his Government to direct that the Austrian Lloyd's steamers, with their mails and cargoes for Scutari, should be ordered to call at the port of San Giovanni di Medua; but his Excellency under some unexplained misconception declined to avail himself of a facility so advantageous for the inhabitants and commerce of Scutari without first consulting the Porte, and it is possible he may represent the offer in a manner so as to induce the Turkish Government to reject a plan which would in a great way replace the loss of free access to the Antivari roadstead.

I suggest that no alteration should be made in the manner of forwarding to me your Lordship's despatches, as the Austrian Post Office authorities will probably find a means of keeping open their intercourse with Scutari.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 237.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 113. Political.)

Scutari, November 13, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Pasha tells me that the whole of the population of Antivari has taken refuge in the citadel of the place, and that the Montenegrins have already commenced to bombard the town.

His Excellency says that Prince Nicholas commands in person the force operating against Antivari, and that His Highness has called upon the inhabitants to surrender, offering them very favourable terms.

His Excellency confirmed to me the taking by the Montenegrins of all the block-houses situated between Spiza and Sutorman; but he is disposed to doubt the reported capture of Sutorman, although he does not believe that it can hold out very long, as it is only armed with one gun.

Mustapha Pasha, who only left Podgoritza yesterday, also tells me that the bombardment of that place has only wounded two soldiers and damaged a few houses. The Montenegrin artillery, however, is sufficiently close for every shot to enter the town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 238.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 1322.)

Therapia, November 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed by Count Zichy that one of the steamers belonging to the Company of "Austrian Lloyd" has been employed by the Turkish Government in taking back to their country, from Trebizond, the Mingrelians who complained that they had been removed from it against their will, and that they were safely landed and delivered over to the Russian authorities at Poti.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 239.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 1323. Confidential.)

Therapia, November 10, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Grand Vizier is very anxious to come to an arrangement which may satisfy the Christians of Crete. His Highness sent to tell me to-day that as the Chiefs of the Christian population of the island were in the habit of communicating with Her Majesty's Consul, he hoped Mr. Sandwith would counsel them to comply with the request of the Porte to send Commissioners or Delegates to Constantinople, in company with representatives of the Mussulman population, to confer with the Turkish Government. His Highness repeated his intention to treat such Delegates with every consideration, and to listen to their grievances with an earnest desire to redress them as far as it is in his power. I sent your Lordship a telegram to this effect this evening, suggesting that if your Lordship would instruct Mr. Sandwith to advise the Cretan Christians to take the step proposed by the Grand Vizier, it might lead to good results.

I have spoken on more than one occasion to Server Pasha about M. Argyraki, the Cretan Deputy referred to in Mr. Sandwith's despatch to me of the 5th instant, who has been sent by the Governor of Crete to Constantinople, and have represented to his Excellency that the arrest of this person, whose conduct towards the Turkish Government appears to have been always loyal, has made an impression upon the Christian population very unfavourable to the Turkish Government. The Porte appears to be persuaded that M. Argyraki has been concerned in the revolutionary movement in Crete, and that he has been one of the main promoters of the Secret Committee connected with it. However, Server Pasha assures me that the worst that will befall him will be a temporary exile, and I am inclined to think that his Excellency is disposed to treat him with leniency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 240.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 1327. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, November 12, 1877.

My Lord,

SERVER PASHA expressed to me to-day great anxiety as to the proceedings and intentions of Servia and Greece. His Excellency said that information, upon which he placed full confidence, had reached him that the Servian Government was preparing to send troops into Bulgaria. Russia was urging it to do so, and was at the same time pressing the Greek Government to enter at once upon hostilities against Turkey. He had learnt that the Russians intended to attempt to take, or turn, Orkhanié, and then to march upon Sofia. As soon as this was accomplished, or if Osman Pasha had to retreat or surrender, the Greek and Servian troops would immediately cross the frontier. His Excellency asked me whether I had any information from Belgrade and Athens to confirm his apprehensions. I replied that the reports I had received certainly induced me to fear that both Servia and Greece might seize the opportunity of any marked success on the part of the Russians in Bulgaria to invade Turkey; but that I had no reason to believe in any immediate steps in that direction on their part. They would probably wait upon events.

His Excellency said that, considering the attitude that Greece had recently assumed, the Porte could not be expected to withdraw its irregular troops from Thessaly, as it had fully intended to do. He could no longer have any confidence in the word of M. Tricoupi, who, after having recently given the most solemn assurances of his desire to remain at peace and in friendly relations with Turkey, was now making ready to attack her. Such duplicity and disloyalty disgusted him ("me repugnent"). His Excellency asked me whether it was not time for the Porte to send its fleet to the Greek coasts. A question which, I observed to his Excellency, he could not expect me to answer.

Server Pasha is under the impression that there is so strong an opposition in Servia to a fresh war with Turkey, and so much dissatisfaction with the conduct of the Prince in allowing himself to be made the tool of Russia, that a revolution is very likely to occur in the Principality should His Highness send troops into Bulgaria. His Excellency added, but he begged me to consider what he said as strictly confidential, that M. Christich, the Servian Agent at the Porte, had admitted to him that the state of affairs in Servia was very grave, and that an unprovoked aggression upon Turkey might lead to serious consequences to Prince Milan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 241.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 1329.)

Therapia, November 12, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 8th instant, instructing me to intimate to the Porte the circumstances under which Her Majesty's Government would no longer consider the blockade of Nicolaiew valid, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note I have addressed to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of a Memorandum which I directed Mr. Sandison to read to the Grand Vizier and Server Pasha, with regard to certain vessels which have recently left Constantinople for Russian ports in the Black Sea, apparently with the connivance of the Turkish authorities.

Before my note was delivered to Server Pasha, I learnt from an advertisement inserted in the local papers that three out of the five vessels, the "Neasoun," "Alexandros," and "Aghios Charalambos," mentioned by your Lordship, had been seized, and were about to be brought before the Prize Court. However, as there was reason to fear that means would be found by their Greek owners to procure their acquittal and release, I did not withhold it. To-day, I had an opportunity of speaking very seriously to his Excellency on the subject of the breach of blockade by Greek vessels. I represented to him in the strongest terms the grave consequences of such proceedings. I further pointed out to him the unfavourable impression that would be made upon Her Majesty's Government if the Prize Court were to release the captured vessels. His Excellency admitted, without hesitation, that what had occurred was most scandalous, and declared that he had done his utmost to prevent it; that he was now determined to take measures to put an end to the

state of things of which I justly complained, and would appeal to the Council of Ministers on the subject.

I told his Excellency that I trusted he would carry out his intentions and promises, as it was scarcely to the interest of the Porte to run the risk of a serious misunderstanding with England, in order to fill the pockets of a few Greek merchants.

Server Pasha remarked that he hoped that there would be no further question of vessels breaking the blockade, as he had been informed that the Russian Government itself had now prohibited the export of corn from Russian ports in the Black Sea.

Some Greeks here, whose names are well known, have omitted no means of bribery and corruption to induce the naval authorities to connive at the breach of the blockade by their vessels, and they have no doubt been to a great extent successful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 241.

Mr. Layard to Server Pasha.

Therapia, November 6, 1877.

Sir,

INFORMATION has been received by Her Majesty's Government that Greek vessels are loading cargoes of wheat at Nicolaieff for exportation.

Amongst them, it would appear, are the following: "Neasons," "Olga," "Aghios Nicholas," "Alexandros," and "Aghios Charalambros."

There can be no doubt on this subject, as Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at that place has been applied to, in his capacity of protector of Turkish interests, for the usual bills of health for those vessels, and he has accordingly issued them. Their captains have, moreover, stated to Her Majesty's Vice-Consul that they have made *bond fide* charter parties with M. P. Semeriotti, as agent for M. Zarifi, of Constantinople, to convey these cargoes of wheat to the Mediterranean. Bills of lading, Her Majesty's Government have been further informed, have been made out for these vessels in the usual form, and a legal document was drawn up by the charterers at the Greek Vice-Consulate, a copy of which was given to each captain, guaranteeing him against all responsibility and risks in case his vessel was captured by the Turkish blockading squadron.

It would appear that one of the vessels in question, the "Aghios Nicholas," has actually sailed from Nicolaieff loaded with wheat, ostensibly for Marseilles. She had on board three destitute Turkish Mussulman subjects, and Her Majesty's Vice-Consul was present at their departure.

I have on several occasions called the most serious attention of the Porte, in pursuance of the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, to similar flagrant breaches of the law of blockade. I am now directed by them to state to your Excellency, in the most formal manner, that if the five Greek vessels above mentioned are allowed—with or without passes, and whatever their destination may be—to proceed on their voyage, Her Majesty's Government will no longer consider the blockade, as regards Nicolaieff, valid.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 241.

Memorandum.

ON delivering my note with reference to the breach of blockade by Greek vessels leaving Nicolaieff for the Mediterranean, Mr. Sandison will inform his Excellency Server Pasha that Her Majesty's Ambassador has learnt from trustworthy sources that several ships laden with miscellaneous cargoes for Russian ports in the Black Sea and Sea of Azoff have left the Bosphorus with the knowledge of the Turkish authorities, and that they are suggested to load return cargoes with which they will be allowed to pass through the Turkish blockading squadron.

Her Majesty's Ambassador is further informed that large sums of money have been offered by certain Greek merchants of Constantinople to the Turkish naval authorities in order to induce them not to interfere with their ships.

Mr. Sandison will call the most serious attention of his Excellency Server Pasha to these facts.

Therapia, November 1877.

No. 242.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 1330. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, November 13, 1877.

I RETURN, inclosed, according to your Lordship's request, the papers transmitted to me by your Lordship in your despatch No. 659, Confidential, of the 31st ultimo. There can be no doubt, as your Lordship will find by my despatch No. 1329 of yesterday, that the information supplied by Mr. Petrochino is, in the main, correct. The two persons mentioned, M. Zarifi and his relative M. Negroponte, have considerable influence in high quarters, and are not particularly scrupulous in their dealings when their interests are concerned. As I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 1287 of the 1st instant, M. Negroponte offered Hobart Pasha 2,000*l.* to allow his vessels to pass the blockade. This was told me by Hobart Pasha himself, who is determined to put a stop to these scandalous proceedings as far as it may be in his power to do so.

The fact that coasting vessels are able to go from port to port on the Russian coast in shallow waters, where they cannot be pursued, does not, I presume, affect the efficiency of the blockade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 243.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 1333. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, November 15, 1877.

THE communications with Plevna are now entirely cut off by the Russians. For some days past the Porte has received no intelligence whatever from that place. It naturally feels very great anxiety as to its fate. Mehemet Ali Pasha is collecting such troops as can be spared from Bosnia and Northern Albania in order to attempt the relief of Osman Pasha. He will be joined by other forces detached from Shipka and sent from Constantinople. It is hoped that he will shortly have a corps under his command of between 20,000 and 30,000 men, with which he will advance from Orkhanié. No doubt appears to be felt as to Osman Pasha's being able to resist successfully an assault on the part of the Russo-Roumanian army; but it is not known whether he is sufficiently supplied with provisions to meet a prolonged investment.

If Plevna should fall, or even if the Russians are strong enough to mask it, and to advance upon Sofia, as it is apparently their intention to do, consequences will in all probability ensue which deserve the most serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and of the European Powers interested in the result of the war and in the fate of the Turkish Empire. It now appears to be almost certain that, if the Russians take Plevna, or cross the Balkans, after inflicting a defeat upon the relieving forces of Mehemet Ali Pasha, the Greeks and Servians will at once cross the Turkish frontiers. If the information that reaches me can be trusted, they are only waiting for some such event. Russia is urging them to lose no time in joining her, placing before them the telling argument that, if they take no part in the war, they cannot expect to derive any advantage from it.

Although the Porte has not yet come to the end of its resources, and a further levy of 300,000 men has been ordered, and is already being carried out, it is difficult to see how a Russian advance into Roumelia, aided by the invasion of Turkey by the Servians and Greeks, and probably by an insurrection in Epirus and Thessaly, can be successfully resisted.

From the reports that I have received from the Military Attachés to the Embassy, who have visited the country between Adrianople and Orkhanié, and from other sources, it would appear that between those places there are no Turkish troops in sufficient

numbers to oppose the advance of even a small Russian force. The defences of Adrianople, and the lines of Boulaïr and of Buyuk Tchekmedji, for the protection of Gallipoli and Constantinople, are sufficiently complete, and, I understand, armed, to offer a successful resistance to an attack from any force that the Russians, under present circumstances, could bring against them; but men are wanting to hold them.

The only means left to the Porte to defend itself against an attack from Servia is to launch into the Principality all the irregulars,—Albanians, Bosniacs, and other Bashi-Bazouks,—men without discipline, and under no control, that can be gathered together. The devastation and misery they will bring upon her may be imagined from the fate of the districts that were the seat of war last year. Servia will scarcely have cause to complain, as she will have herself provoked her fate by a wanton aggression upon Turkey. Nor can Prince Milan expect, after his disloyal and treacherous conduct, to receive help or sympathy from any European Power.

As regards Greece, the prospect is even more serious. The Porte may not be able to send sufficient regular troops to prevent a Greek invasion of Thessaly and Epirus; it will be compelled to have recourse to Albanians and other irregulars. The Turkish fleet will probably be sent to the Greek coasts, and may inflict grave injury on Greek towns. Whatever may be the sympathy felt for Greece, it cannot be denied that she will have brought these misfortunes upon herself, by one of the most wanton and unjustifiable aggressions upon a neighbouring State that history can record,—an aggression as cowardly as unprovoked,—directed against a Power which, whatever may be its faults and shortcomings, has ever desired to remain at peace and in the most friendly relations with her, which has treated her with singular generosity and consideration, and which has respected to the utmost its international engagements as regards her.

Although Greece might not for the moment have any allies except Russia to aid and abet her in her attack upon Turkey, the operations of a Turkish fleet upon the Greek coasts, the danger of its presence to the defenceless towns, and its effect upon neutral commerce, might, indeed probably would, ere long induce other Powers to interfere. Should such be the case, the danger of the war extending far beyond its present limits would be imminent.

An invasion by Greek troops of Thessaly and Epirus would lead, there is every reason to fear, to an insurrection of the Greeks of those provinces, and to very great and dangerous excitement, if not to an actual outbreak, amongst the Greek population in other parts of the Empire. Whatever might be the ultimate result of a Greek rising, its immediate consequences in the present state of Mussulman feeling could only be disastrous to the Christians.

It is to the terrible danger that a Russian advance upon Adrianople, and a Greek invasion, would thus be to the defenceless population of European Turkey, whether Christian or Mussulman, that I would most urgently call the attention of Her Majesty's Government. Before the present cruel and unrighteous war was forced upon Turkey, those best acquainted with this country ventured to warn those who were inciting Russia to it, of its inevitable consequences. They pointed out that, even in a state of peace, and with the authority of the Porte unimpaired, it was with the utmost difficulty that the various populations inhabiting the Turkish Empire, bitterly hostile to each other through differences in race and creed, could be kept under control and checked in their feelings of mutual hatred and rivalry. When once, owing to a struggle for national existence, the Porte would be compelled to withdraw its troops and police from the provinces where they had hitherto maintained some kind of order and restraint, and its central authority were relaxed, general anarchy and the gravest danger to the peaceable and unarmed populations were inevitable. Such has proved to be the case. In all parts of the Empire we find lawless tribes, such as the Kurds, Arabs, and Albanians, and the so-called "Bashi-Bazouks," committing the most shocking outrages and excesses upon defenceless Mussulmans, as well as upon Christians, although the latter are, as might have been expected, their principal victims. Those who are responsible for the war are scarcely less responsible for its results. They must have known beforehand what would happen, and must have been best able to judge whether its real object, even if attained, would be commensurate with the misery, devastation, and carnage that it would inevitably entail.

The evils and dangers which I have described have been greatly increased by the attempt of Russia to raise the Bulgarians against the Mahomedans. Whether Cossacks have, or have not, been guilty of acts of cruelty and outrage upon the Mussulman population, it is now proved beyond question or doubt, that the Bulgarians, provided with arms by the Russian military authorities, and under the protection of Russian troops, have committed unparalleled "atrocities" upon it. In proof of this we have the admissions of newspaper correspondents, avowedly favourable to the Russian cause, who have accompanied the Russian armies, in addition to the evidence, which all impartial men must accept as conclusive, of English officers and gentlemen in the public service. That it was the Bulgarians, and not the Turks, who were the aggressors, and who first massacred their countrymen, outraged their women, and devastated their homes, is equally proved by such eye-witnesses as Mr. Archibald Forbes, to whose statements as to the respect shown by the Turks for the lives and property of the Bulgarians, when the Russians first crossed the Danube, I have referred in my despatch No. 1,520 of yesterday's date. It was the Russians who armed the Bulgarian legion of "avengers," the foremost in perpetrating deeds of horror upon Mahomedan old men, women, and children. As I have already had occasion to state to your Lordship, documentary evidence can be furnished to show that had the abortive insurrection of last year succeeded, a general massacre of the Mussulman population was intended. The Mahomedans have avenged themselves upon the Bulgarians with savage fury. Already there have been slaughter, devastation, and outrage in the fairest parts of Turkey, unexampled for centuries in Europe.

All that was foretold by those who deprecated this war, and believed that its ostensible object could have been obtained by peaceful means, has thus happened, and perhaps even more. But terrible as has hitherto been its results, they may be almost as nothing when compared with what may occur should the Russians again cross the Balkans, and should the Greeks, excited by the Hellenic Government and Russia, rise against the Sultan. I have received urgent warnings from the most trustworthy sources that in either event a general massacre of the Christians may ensue. The feelings of exasperation and revenge of the Mussulmans against those to whom they attribute their unexampled sufferings have been excited to the highest pitch by the sight of thousands upon thousands of Mahommedan women and children who are wandering naked and starving over the face of the country, driven from their homes in consequence of the invasion of their country.

Major de Winton reports to me that at Sofia and in the neighbourhood he found above 20,000 of these fugitives, and between that place and Orkhanié about 50,000, who actually blocked the passes, and were without shelter and perishing from cold and want of food.

Hitherto the vengeance of the Mussulmans has been directed against the Bulgarians alone as the cause of their misfortunes. The other Christian races have been respected and unmolested; but if the Greeks join the Slavs, and the horrors of Bulgaria and Roumelia are repeated in Thessaly and Epirus, the consequences to the whole Christian population of the Turkish Empire may be truly terrible.

I have ventured to submit these considerations to the most earnest attention of Her Majesty's Government, because they appear to me to furnish one of the strongest reasons why every effort should be made by England and the other Powers to bring the war to an end before it extends to the south of the Balkans, and the Greeks and Servians are dragged into it. It was entered upon ostensibly for the protection and better government of the Bulgarians; it may end in bringing upon them and upon the Christians in general irreparable disasters; it may destroy for ever the bright prospects they undoubtedly had of future national development, independence, and prosperity; and more, it may lead to the extension of the area of devastation and bloodshed far beyond the borders of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 243.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 23.*)

(No. 1336.) *Therapia, November 13, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Dupuis, relative to the number of refugees in Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 244.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, November* 3, 1877.

IT may interest your Excellency to know that during last month 596 fugitives from the seat of war and the surrounding country, who have been receiving relief from the Municipality and the Adrianople, British, and Consular Committees, have either returned to their villages, or been sent by rail by the local Government at half-fare to settle in the following places, viz.:—

Eski-Zaghra and Yeni-Zaghra	271	Yeni-Mahallé ..	..	93
Philippopoli ..	..	20	Baba-Eski ..	..	9
Yamboli ..	..	53	Karabunar ..	..	18
Constantinople ..	..	120	Mustafa-Pasha ..	..	12

The greater portion of the above people consisted of Mussulman women and children and some Jews, but scarcely any Bulgarians, for while it is thought not to be unsafe for the two first to return and settle in localities, this side of the Balkans so long as affairs continue as at present, the latter do not return, because it is alleged the male members of their families, being either killed, imprisoned, or dispersed, and their villages destroyed, they have no homes to go to.

Salih Bey, the President of the Municipality, told me, that at this date he thought there were still in Adrianople about 9,275 fugitives, namely, 7,500 Turks, 1,125 Christians, and 650 Jews receiving relief from the above sources, but that their numbers fluctuated by constant arrivals and departures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 245.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 1341.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 14, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an interesting report from Mr. Rassam. The state to which the country he has visited has been reduced in consequence of the Russian invasion, the robberies and murders committed by the savage and lawless Kurds whom the Turkish authorities have no longer the means to restrain, the devastated fields and ruined villages, is truly deplorable. I have received a private letter from Mr. Rassam, dated the 22nd, also from Van. He had been doing his best to induce the authorities to take some measures to put an end to the anarchy which is reigning on all sides and to protect the peaceable and defenceless inhabitants, Christians and Mussulmans, from the excesses of the Kurds. The Governors of Van and Diarbekir are desirous of doing so, and Mr. Rassam writes highly of their good intention; but they seem powerless to act, all the regular military force having been sent to the seat of war.

Mr. Rassam was about to leave Van for the Kurdish mountains and Nestorian districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 245.

Mr. Rassam to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Van, October* 15, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I arrived here from Diarbekir on the 6th instant, after having visited the districts of Suart, Bitlis, and Moosh. Through the whole of my journey I heard the same general complaint made by the different Christian communities of the oppression and maladministration of the local authorities, and the unchecked lawlessness of the Kurds.

After making some allowance for the exaggerated reports regarding the sufferings of the Christian population in the vilayets of Diarbekir and Van, it cannot be denied that a good deal of misery has been caused in these parts from want of proper protection to life and property. The apathy and weakness of the local authorities, and the corruption of

the collectors of taxes in the districts, have been the main cause of the present troubles. It seems that the Kurds, especially that part of them of the nomadic tribes, have never been properly brought under subjection, and, as a matter of course, as soon as they found they could exact what they liked with impunity from those Christians who are in their power, they did so without caring about the consequences. From all I have heard and seen, all the highland Kurdish tribes, from Diarbekir to Solaimania, are more or less unmanageable. They not only refuse to pay any taxes, or conform to the law of conscription, but they plunder and kill at their pleasure, and anyone who dares to deny them anything, he is sure to lose his life and property. I must, however, not omit to mention that, in many instances which came to my notice during my travels, Mahommedans suffered as well as Christians from the ravages of the Kurds. The Rushkootan, Sheikh Dodan, the Sasoun and Mootku tribes, who inhabit the mountains between Diarbekir and Moosh, spare neither Christian nor Mahommedan; and while I was in the Pashalic of Diarbekir, no less than three Mahommedan Chiefs were murdered by these robbers for the sake of their property.

A few days before I passed through the disturbed districts under the power of the Rushkootan tribe, no less than forty-five peaceful Kurds were killed in cold blood by these rebels on account of a petty dispute about a gun! The fear of these lawless tribes was such that a number of Christian villagers were deserting their homes and taking refuge in a more secure locality. Even some of the peaceful Mahommedan peasants assured me that, between the exactions of the local authorities, and the inroads of the mountain Kurdish tribes, they were quite ruined, and they declared that, unless their Government took proper steps to remedy the evil, they would be compelled to fly the country.

For the last eight or ten months both the Governors-General of Diarbekir and Van have had no proper troops to enable them to put down Kurdish excesses. They had merely to depend upon the assistance of the local police, who, in many instances, proved of great impediment rather than help. They themselves are very often at the bottom of the robberies committed, and indirectly encourage thefts and burglary. I have been told by a number of Mahommedans, whether Turks, Kurds, or Arabs, that both the zaptiehs and Circassians were known to plunder on the highway when they found an opportunity to do so without being found out; and as these local police are allowed to press baggage horses and mules for carrying provisions to the seat of war, they very often use this privilege to their advantage. Both the foot and mounted police are so badly paid, that it is quite impossible for them to live on what they legitimately get; the consequence is, as soon as they find an opportunity, they try to reimburse themselves by extortion and dishonesty. It is quite impossible that this unhappy state of affairs can be remedied without a proper administration of the local police, especially with regard to their pay and allowances. Naturally, the weakest must suffer when there is no proper protection to life and property; and as the Christians in these parts are quite helpless, the greatest weight of the oppression falls upon them.

Doubtless the peaceful inhabitants in the Pashalics of Diarbekir and Van are in a deplorable condition, both as regards the provisions and other perquisites they have to supply to the garrisons of Kars and Bayazid, and also as to the rapine and murder committed by the ruthless and fanatical Kurds. If matters go on much longer as they have been going on for the last few months there is no knowing what further calamities might yet befall the Christians of this country, who are hemmed in by savage Kurds and other fanatical Moslems.

This iniquitous war has spread woe and desolation in many a peaceful village, and if the Kurdish blood-thirstedness is not put a stop to at once, and the peasants are not better protected, the prospect of the poor Christians, and even the peaceful Mahommedans, while the war lasts, is far from cheering.

Both Abder-Rahman Pasha, the Governor-General of Diarbekir, and Hasan Pasha, the Governor-General of Van, have assured me that nothing would be wanting on their part to ameliorate the condition of all the Christian communities in their Pashalics; and as both have now a few companies of regular troops under their command it is to be hoped that they would be able to restore order and tranquillity in their provinces before winter.

From all the inquiries I have made I find that the state of serfdom in the Kurdistan mountains has never been quite abolished, but, on the contrary, in some of the inaccessible mountain fastnesses Christian villages with their inhabitants have even lately been bartered for and sold by their Beys and Aghas, as if they had been their own slaves, and any man who dares to change his habitation to another village during this tenure would be sure to meet with his death. I was told by some Kurdish Chiefs that this old feudal law is practised even on Moslem villages whose inhabitants happen to be of the peasant class.

In the lowlands, especially in the plains of Bitlis and Moosh, the Christians complain of the constant arbitrary demands of their Mahommedan neighbours, who are continually exacting from them what they require of provisions and other perquisites, and if their orders are not complied with they will either punish them themselves by incendiary or robbery, or incite some Kurdish brigands to do the needful for them.

It seems that the Tanzumat and local Councils have done more harm in this country, where life and property are of no value, than any mal-administration of the local authorities. The Tanzumat is not of the least use to the peaceful inhabitants, but it has proved a great shelter to the wrong-doers under which they escape just punishment; and as for the local Councils they are totally useless, and both Mahommedans and Christians admit that the members of these tribunals sit either as a nonentity or to make use of their influence for mischief and to enrich themselves by bribery. I have been assured by both Mahommedans and Christians, and even by those who are connected with the public service, that a good deal of the Kurdish wickedness is encouraged by some members of these Councils, and whenever the authorities want to send a force to coerce a certain rebellious tribe some friendly member of the Medjlis sends a warning to them to run away or to prepare themselves for resistance. It is very extraordinary that this is the common opinion in every town, and it is not a little shared by the local authorities themselves.

The general complaint of the high local authorities is that they have no power left them to punish criminals summarily, and as it often happens that a murderer or robber when brought to trial gets acquitted by means of false evidence or through the threat of vengeance by his accomplice.

On several occasions when Christians complained to me regarding the miscarriage of justice in their individual cases, and I found that the Christian members of their local Councils were a party to the decision given, those very members told me without the least shame that they were induced to set their hands and seals to the verdict or warrant given either through fear or for private consideration.

With this unhappy state of affairs, your Excellency can well judge how difficult it is to learn the truth of any grievance reported. On many occasions when I represented to the different authorities, both in this Pashalic and that of Diarbekir, some of the wrongs which were brought to my notice, they were not only denied, but I was assured that the Christians were to blame. Seeing that I have not come here to hold a court of inquiry, and to find out on examination the facts of every individual complaint, it is quite impossible for me to say whose account is to be relied on most. There is no doubt that some of the Christians do exaggerate, and in some instances fabricate, stories to create sympathy; nevertheless, it cannot be doubted that the Christians in general are very badly treated by their more rude Moslem fellow-countrymen, especially, to the shame of former rulers, in the towns of Diarbekir, Suárt, Bitlis, Moosh, and Van. They are constantly abused, maltreated, and beaten, and their religion execrated, without their being able to obtain any proper redress. Generally speaking, the Christians are afraid to complain, especially now when Mohammedan fanaticism is at its height; but when any individual has the pluck to go and complain to the authorities, he fails to obtain justice, either through the want of Mahommedan witnesses or through the inacceptance of Christian evidence.

I feel confident, however, that both Abder Rahman, Pasha of Diarbekir, and Husun Pasha of Van, will do their utmost to put down these abuses; but as they have honestly told me themselves, they have to be very cautious in suppressing with a strong hand this long-established evil when their country is engaged in the gigantic war with Russia. They are afraid lest by trying to be very severe they might increase the hatred of the Islam, and bring about greater misfortunes on the Christians than what they now complain of.

Doubtless your Excellency has heard of the destruction by the fanatical Kurds of four Armenian districts in this Pashalic after the Russian troops evacuated them, viz., Alashgurt, Kara-Kilissa, Diadeen, and Bayazid. I am told that in the last-mentioned province, especially in Bayazid, the most awful atrocities were committed by the hordes of Kurds, who went to the jehad from the Jelow, Rayandaz, Solaimania, and other Kurdish districts. It is said that in some instances they spared neither man, woman, nor child; and those of the women and children whom they did not kill they carried away as slaves to their different homes. On returning to their country these Kurds are said to have carried with them between 250 and 300 Armenian women and children, but as yet I have not found any clue to their whereabouts to demand them from the authorities. It may be that the wily Kurds, knowing that the Turkish authorities would not allow them to retain those unfortunate captives, have dispersed them amongst the Kurdish villages where no Christian can find them out. I shall try to find out, in passing through that part of Kurdistan

which lies between this and Mossúl, whether any Christian captives do really exist amongst the tribes there; and as I intend to visit Ramandooz and Solaimania before I return home, I shall find out for myself whether in that part of Kurdistan any kidnapped women or children do really exist.

As a matter of course all the Kurds who went to the Jehad considered it to be their sacred duty to plunder and maltreat all the Christians that happened to be in their way, not caring whether they were the subjects of their Sultan or not; and in these ravages the churches and monasteries suffered the most. The ruthless Kurds killed many an unfortunate Christian without any cause or reason, and violated women and girls when they had them in their power.

I am sorry to learn that the authorities are not on good terms with Mar Shamoun, because, I am told, that for some time past he refused to come, as he usually did on former occasions, to pay his respects to the new Governor-General. Hassan Pasha, the Vali, informed me that the Nestorians, under Mar Shamoun, have not paid their proper taxes for a long time, and now, especially, they have refused to pay anything at all. How far this is correct I shall not be able to find out until I pay Mar Shamoun my intended visit after I leave this place at the end of this week or the beginning of the next.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. RASSAM.

No. 246.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 300.)

My Lord, *Athens, November 12, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour, with reference to my despatch No. 298 of the 10th instant, to report to your Lordship that I saw the Austrian Minister, Count Dubsky, last night, and that his Excellency informed me that M. Tricoupi had spoken to him as to the desire of the Greek Government that a Greek Representative should be admitted to a Conference should one be held for the settlement of the Eastern question.

M. Tricoupi does not, however, appear to have actually preferred a request on this subject to the Governments of Austria and Italy through their Representatives at Athens, in the same manner that he has to Her Majesty's Government through me, as he is anxious, it seems, in the first place to gain the consent of Her Majesty's Government to Greece being represented at a Conference before applying even unofficially to other Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 247.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 304. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, November 14, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 302 and 303 of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a very interesting report which Captain Clarke, of the Royal Artillery, has been so good as to address to me respecting the Greek army, and to which I beg to call your Lordship's attention.

Your Lordship will see by this report that Captain Clarke is of opinion that the Greek army is far from being in an efficient state.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 247.

Captain Clarke to Mr. Wyndham.

(Secret and Confidential.)

Athens, November 14, 1877.

Sir,

WITH regard to our conversation this morning on the present state of feeling in Greece, I beg to send you the following rough notes in anticipation of the messenger leaving for Constantinople to-night.

When I was at Lamia, the foremost garrison of the Greeks towards Thessaly, a week ago, there were no signs of war being imminent, neither has anything presented itself since that time which has led me to alter that impression. There was no excitement; nothing which could be in the least construed into preparations for immediate war. There is no question, however, that the Greeks have it in contemplation to seize a favourable opportunity to take some active step which will give them a claim to their voice being heard when the question of the future of Roumelia, Bulgaria, Epirus, Thessaly, &c., comes to be considered. Like the other surrounding nations, they do not wish to be left out of the game. The opportunity must, however, be a favourable one; such as a decided success on the part of the Russians—some disaster to the Turks in the field. They will not try conclusions with Turkey so long as Turkey is strong.

That the Greeks are not in a condition to take an active part at this present time, I have no hesitation in saying. The bulk of the men composing the battalion at Lamia—the foremost garrison, be it remarked—are raw, undeveloped recruits. They are in the act of changing the armament of all three arms—infantry, cavalry, and artillery; replacing the infantry chassepôt with the Gras rifle, the cavalry percussion muzzle-loading arm with one of Greek pattern, and the present bronze muzzle-loading mountain-gun with the Krupp gun. All this is in transition state, and neither the battalion at Lamia, nor the battery there, have received the new armament. I need scarcely point out the great risk attached to a change of armament at the moment of taking the field. Surely, if there was any prospect of imminent war, would there not have been great preparations for the immediate armament of this battalion with the new rifle, and would not the men have been all the day at target practice?

The force the Greeks could raise in the event of war is difficult to determine, but I will give the highest and the lowest statements. A Greek Staff officer of great intelligence, having been educated at the Prussian Staff school, estimated the number at 35,000 men. A Turkish Consul, who watches all movements very narrowly, puts the force at 15,000, "of whom," he says, "two-thirds would be recruits." I think myself it a matter of doubt if the Greeks could enter Epirus and Thessaly with 15,000 men. The battalions are below the normal war effective. The battalion at Lamia, instead of containing 1,000 men (4 companies of 250 men each), does not consist of more than 600. There is no organized train; no ambulances. The army is in its infancy. The camp at Thebes gave the first opportunity of drilling the battalions as such. No General is appointed as yet to command the brigade, whose head-quarters are at Lamia. All these facts put together seem as indications that the Greeks are not on the eve of war. Should a signal success on the part of Russia draw them into the field during this year, the Greeks will be found most ill-prepared.

The Greek populations in Thessaly and Epirus had, on the whole, little complaint to make during the interval I was marching from Janina, viâ Larissa, to Lamia (within the last three weeks). They reported the Bashi-Bazouks as behaving for the time better, so that if the Turkish authorities restrain the pillaging propensities of these irregular levies, which it is within their power to do, the Greeks will be unable to seize upon the pretext of Bashi-Bazouk outrage for declaring war against Turkey.

I may add that the pro-Hellenic feeling is strong throughout the country, and much more pronounced in Greece than in Thessaly and Epirus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE, *Captain,*
Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.

No. 248.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 306. Confidential.)

Athens, November 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I SHOULD have mentioned to your Lordship that in the course of my conversation with M. Tricoupi on the 10th instant, on his Excellency making some observation as to the desire of Greece for aggrandisement, I observed to him that it did not at all follow that even if Greece did succeed in taking possession of any Turkish territory she would be allowed by the Great Powers to retain it.

His Excellency replied that he was fully aware of this.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 249.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

Scutari, November 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE telegraphed to M. Doby asking permission to visit the Prince's head-quarters to make communication. It is desirable that my request should for the moment appear to have emanated entirely from me. I hope my explanations, which I forward by post to-morrow, will meet with your Lordship's approval. Your Lordship can stop my departure by telegraph.

No. 250.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

November 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RAHOVA evacuated by Turks and occupied by Roumanians yesterday.

No. 251.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 496.)

Therapia, November 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

SERVIAN Agent communicated yesterday to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs a despatch from his Government renewing assurances of pacific intentions of Servia. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs says despatch contained nevertheless "some impertinent expressions." No other communication has, I am assured, been made by the Servian Agent to the Porte.

Sent to Belgrade.

No. 252.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)

Bucharest, November 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

IT is rumoured that the Russian reinforcements, to the amount of perhaps 60,000, are to commence arriving immediately.

A portion of the railway traffic will be suspended in consequence.

No. 253.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wood.

(No. 24.)

Foreign Office, November 23, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the language which you held to your Italian colleague on the subject of the dispatch of a Tunisian contingent to Turkey, as reported in your despatch No. 50 of the 11th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 254.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wood.

(No. 25.)

Foreign Office, November 23, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 49 of the 9th instant, giving the substance of the representations which the Acting French Consul-General has addressed to the Bey of Tunis respecting the proposed dispatch of a Tunisian contingent to Turkey, and reporting the language which you have held to the Bey on this subject; and I have to state to you that under the circumstances your language is approved by Her Majesty's Government, but that you should as far as possible avoid the responsibility of advising the Regent as to the course he should pursue with regard to sending troops to Constantinople.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 255.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 92. Political.)

Beyrout, November 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the election of Deputies to represent the Vilayet of Syria in the Ottoman National Assembly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 255.

Consul General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Beyrout, November 9, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the following four Deputies to the National Assembly at Constantinople have been elected for the Vilayet of Syria:—

1. Husseyn Effendi Beyhoum, Mussulman, who was member of the former Assembly.
2. Nicholas Effendi Naccashe, Maronite, also member of the former Assembly.
3. Abd-ul-Rahim Effendi, Mussulman, belonging to a highly-respected family of Beyrout; and
4. Halil Effendi Ganem, Maronite, of a respectable family at Beyrout.

My appreciation of Husseyn and Nicholas Effendis was given in my despatch of the 3rd March last; but I have reason to believe that Husseyn Effendi has declined to accept the charge to which he has been elected, and that the next on the list is Dervish Effendi Shaalbour, who was elected last spring, but refused to accept, and will probably do the same now. The next to him is Ahmed Effendi Shamia, of Damascus, who is not personally known to me, but who will probably be the second Mussulman Deputy.

Abd-ul-Rahim Effendi is well known to me, and I have the highest opinion of his capacity and integrity. He has filled with credit various subordinate posts in the Ottoman service. He was for about five years Kaimakam of various places in the Vilayet of Diarbekir; and has during the last five months filled the post of Mussulman member of the

Medjliss Temeez of Beyrout, where his acuteness and honesty have gained for him a high reputation amongst all classes, as he is a sworn enemy to injustice, abuses, and corruption. As a Mussulman he is most liberal in his ideas, tolerant and conciliant towards Christians; and, during the last two years of difficulty, his influence has always been exercised to prevent any excesses and fanatical demonstrations on the part of his coreligionists. He is thoroughly convinced of the necessity of reforms in the Ottoman Administration in general, and especially in the equal distribution and impartial collection of the taxes, in the administration of justice, and the organization of the police. Unfortunately for himself, he is by no means a man of wealth; in fact, I believe he has no other resources than the salary he receives from the Government, which makes his proverbial integrity the more remarkable; but as he is firm in his convictions and eloquent in expressing them, I hope, for the sake of the public good, that his opinions will meet with the consideration they deserve, although they are not backed by the influence of wealth.

Halil Effendi Ganem was for some time Private Secretary to Halet and Essaad Pashas when Governors-General of Syria, and he accompanied the latter in the spring of 1875 to Constantinople, where he still remains, and, I believe, occupies the post of Chief Dragoman to the Grand Vizier, in which capacity he is, no doubt, well known to Her Majesty's Embassy.

The fact that the four deputies who were at the head of the poll are natives of Beyrout, and that the two Christians are both Maronites, has been somewhat commented upon; but I consider it as a proof that the other districts of the vilayet appreciate the exceptional educational advantages offered by this town, which places its inhabitants in the van of civilization in Syria.

The question of sending deputies from Mount Lebanon still remains in abeyance, though I see no reason to alter the opinion I expressed on this subject in a former despatch, yet the idea has been opposed by my French colleague under instructions, as he tells me, from Paris and Constantinople, and he has also informed me more than once that he has reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government agrees with his views, which are to the effect that the sending of deputies would be opposed to the principles of the "Règlement du Liban," an opinion in which I do not concur, but which, in order to prevent any difficulties which might cause troubles in the country, I have not actively opposed, though, when asked, I have, in the absence of any instructions on the subject, freely expressed my own views.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 256.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 15. Political.)

Damascus, November 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting upon public affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 256.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Layard.

Damascus, November 12, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 5th instant the scrutiny by the Grand Council here of the votes of the Provincial Medjlisses for the election of four Deputies to the Turkish Parliament, resulted in the election of MM. Cutzi and Bedran, Moslems; and of MM. Nakash and Ghanem, Christians. MM. Nukash and Ghanem were members of the last Parliament.

The collection and dispatch of Nizam and Redif troops continue; and during the last fortnight 740 officers and men raised in this district have been sent to Beyrout for shipment. The men were unarmed and without uniform.

Stagnation of trade and industry still prevails; and the ever-pressing exigencies of the Government in men and money serve to intensify the great gloom which hangs over the city and district.

The price of grain has doubled since last spring, owing to deficient harvests; and in spite of prohibition to exportation, the value of cereals daily augments, thus increasing the misery among the people.

With all this, however, the city of Damascus enjoys perfect tranquillity, and there is an absence of serious crime. Beyond the city the roads are insecure, and cases of robbery by Bedouins and outlaws are not infrequent.

The provisions of the late forced loan are being carried out by the levy of one year's "verghoo," or land-tax, in advance.

The payment is regarded by the Government as a gift, certain of the notables having, in the name of the people of Syria, offered the same as a voluntary donation. This initiative of the notables has not met with universal favour; and although overt opposition has now ceased, the advantage to the Treasury of this mode of carrying out the loan may be doubted.

As regards the civil administration, the practical stoppage of the pay of all Government employés has not tended to lessen corruption or to prevent abuse; and appeal to the tribunals and other departments of Government is only resorted to in cases of extreme need.

Telegraphic instructions have just been received here from the Porte, calling out every available Redif and Mustaphiz, a measure which causes much consternation and dismay among a people already sorely tried.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 257.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 388. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, November 20, 1877.*

YOUR Lordship may remember that the Italian Government has always expressed itself unfavourably to the idea of a port in the Adriatic being granted to Montenegro, their objections being founded on the supposition that, Montenegro being too weak to be entirely independent, such port would practically fall into the hands of another Power,—Russia, whom the Italian Government would be unwilling to see in the possession of a maritime station in such close proximity to the Italian coast.

I called, therefore, on Signor Melegari yesterday in order to ascertain what impression the reported capture of Antivari by the Montenegrins had made upon him.

His Excellency reminded me of the views he had always expressed to me in regard to giving a port to the Montenegrins, and he also repeated to me what he had said to the Marquis of Salisbury on this subject. The port which was then spoken of was Spitza, and the opinions which he then expressed still held good, but they had not been supported by Her Majesty's Government or any other.

The Italian Government, his Excellency said, was so anxious for a pacification in the East that they would certainly not stand out alone in opposition to arrangements which might be agreed upon between the other Great Powers, when the conditions of peace came to be discussed, but, nevertheless, they would consider any changes of territory in the Adriatic contrary to their interests.

Signor Melegari added that the Italian Government still adhered to their original programme of endeavouring to uphold as far as possible the territorial integrity of Turkey in Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 258.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 389.)
My Lord, *Rome, November 20, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy, with translation, of an article which appeared in the "Opinione" of yesterday's date, on the subject of the peaceful nature of the external policy of Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 258.

Extract from "L'Opinione."

(Translation.)

FOREIGN POLITICS.—Italy believed herself threatened by a war with France owing to the clerical schemes in that country, but now a period of peace ought to commence throughout Europe. Whilst there was danger of that war, it was to the advantage of some Powers that Russia should be occupied in the East; but now for what good is the slaughter of Russian and Turkish soldiers, who have clearly proved their valour?

Moreover, the condition of the two armies and of the two countries is such that England, Germany, and Austria-Hungary, if they sincerely wish, could use their offices to obtain an armistice, the precursor of peace, by which the peoples of the Balkans will obtain that autonomy which perhaps would not have been gained without the war, but which a continuation of it would not ensure to them more securely or more completely. Russia, having made amends for her first defeats by her recent victories, would find a recompense in Armenia; nor would she hope to be able to chase from Europe the Ottoman Government, nor obtain the consent of the other Powers to the ejection from the European chart of a State that has shown such a great vitality.

We need scarcely include Italy amongst the Powers most interested in attempting diplomatic mediation which would lead sincerely to peace. Clericalism having been discomfited in France, all menace and all danger for Italy should be, if not entirely set aside, at least far postponed.

Our foreign relations remain as before, and our alliance with Germany cannot be dissolved. The common enemy is beaten, not subdued, nor will it cease from seeking the occasion to annoy and to disturb us, and to make that opportunity occur. But we believe that we are sufficiently guarded to combat the enemy; and, since experience has taught us that the forces of which we can dispose are unequal to the gravity of the struggle, no one could hinder us from choosing others more formidable. It is the supreme duty of the State to maintain its independence and its liberty against all, and in adopting this high office, we have the certitude of being backed by the opinion of all Liberal Europe. It remains, therefore, for the Ministry to reassure all, both at home and abroad. The mission of the Hon. Crispi was too clamorous not to awaken fears, and not to place the international policy of the Cabinet under a different aspect from that which it had originally. The Parliament protested loudly that, although no sacrifice could be or would be refused to the maintenance of the integrity of the kingdom and to repulse the enemy who had dared to assault us, it was clearly decided to prevent the Ministry from changing their pacific programme, which had been constantly defended and maintained. We cannot admit a policy of sterile agitation, which would be considered a policy of aggression, and would increase diplomatic distrust which it would be useless to try and disguise.

The Ministry will not wish to give to Italy and to Europe that revolting spectacle of a nation who, received into the concert of the other States who seek for peace and reconciliation, should begin to agitate the standard of discord.

This ought not to come to pass: it ought not, because we should cover ourselves with infamy; it ought not, because it would ruin the finances, and would impede the re-establishment of credit; it ought not, finally, because the peoples, proved in war, demanded a peace which would produce plentiful labour, and private and public prosperity.

No. 259.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 390.)
Rome, November 20, 1877.

My Lord,

I CALLED on Count Tornielli this morning, and showed him your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, transmitting one received through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople from Mr. Consul Green, relative to the reported presence of large bodies of men with the Montenegrin force operating in the Antivari district wearing the European dress, and the impression which exists that they may be Garibaldians.

Count Tornielli stated that, without, of course, being able to assert that a few individual Italians were not taking part with the Montenegrins, which might or might not be the case, he could positively declare that, to the knowledge of the Government, no number of Italians had gone over to assist the Montenegrin cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 260.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 391. Confidential.)
Rome, November 20, 1877.

My Lord,

IN the course of a conversation I had this morning with Count Tornielli, I asked him if the Italian Government had recently received any intimation from the Porte of their desire to conclude peace.

Count Tornielli said that at the usual reception of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, about a fortnight ago, his Excellency had spoken to Count Corti, as he, Count Tornielli, believed he had also done to the Representations of some of the other Powers, in a way in which a Minister of a Power in a critical position might be expected to speak,—of the dreadful sacrifice of human life, of the disastrous consequences to both Powers of a continuance of the war, and of its behoving the Powers to do something to put an end to it.

Count Tornielli informed me that Count Corti, who had already been furnished with instructions, had in reply advised the Turkish Minister, as the best means of securing peace, to make an appeal to the good offices of the German Government.

Count Tornielli then alluded to a paragraph which, he said, had recently appeared in the "Agence Russe," and which had aroused considerable attention at Vienna, to the effect that in reply to an application which the Porte had made to the Cabinet of Berlin for their mediation, the Porte had been told it had better address itself to the Russian head-quarters.

Count Tornielli said he did not know whether the report was true or not.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 261.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 498.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, November 23, 1877.

GRAND VIZIER proposes that Geshoffs should be sent to Aleppo or some other place where they will have their liberty, but will remain under surveillance until the end of the war, when they will be allowed to go where they like. It appears to me that this arrangement is fair, and as much as we can expect. If they are sent out of the country they may go to England, and an agitation may be got up by them and their friends which might lead to mischief. American Minister appears disposed to insist that John Geshoff, who was named American Vice-Consul under the circumstances mentioned in my despatch No. 1387, should be delivered up to him. It appears to me that he has no right to claim him. Could you say a word at Washington that might lead to acceptance of settlement proposed by Grand Vizier?

No. 262.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)
Pesth, November 23, 1877.

COUNT ZICHY appears to fear that Russia may make a separate peace with the Porte; but Count Andrassy considers it improbable, because Turkish Government cannot conclude peace without consulting its Parliament, and because even if Russia should treat Europe with (faithlessness) by acting alone, he cannot believe that she would endeavour to impose terms on the Porte to which she could not hope to obtain the assent of England and Austria.

No. 263.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)
November 23, 1877.

PROPOSED raid of Gourko abandoned. He is intrenching himself with three divisions of infantry, one brigade of rifles, and a mass of cavalry at Osikovo and Bulgurski Izvor.

No. 264.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)
St. Petersburgh, November 24, 1877.

A VAGUE rumour is circulating here that the Turks have regained three positions near Plevna.

Fears entertained here that capture of a fourth position may reopen communications for Osman Pasha. Nothing official published here, nor can I guarantee authenticity of rumour.

No. 265.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 25.)

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, November 20, 1877.

AUTHORITIES here are quite disheartened by the progress made by the Montenégrin invading force. The few troops which had been placed across the Antivari road have fallen back on Scutari.

Complete panic exists here. Pashas hope to receive reinforcements from Candia. They would be glad, however, to receive authority to treat with enemy. Not sent to Constantinople.

No. 266.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 499.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, November 24, 1877.

THE Sultan has just heard from Mehemet Ali Pasha that Osman Pasha has succeeded in forcing his way through the Russians and has reached Rahova. Have you heard anything to confirm this?

No. 267.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 500.) *Therapia, November 24, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 20th, I have spoken to the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs about Greek ship accused of piracy, which will be, I think, released.

No. 268.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 93. Political.) *Galutz, November 20, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 89, Political, of the 5th October, on the subject of the railway between Galutz and Bender, I have the honour to report that the first train reached Galutz last evening. Repairs had to be executed at two small bridges near the villages of Hadji Abdulla and Fricatsei between Bolgrad and Reni, and on approaching the bridge over the Pruth near Reni, the occupants of the carriages got out and walked.

The contractor, M. Poliakoff, has left for Bucharest in order to complete the formalities of handing over the line; he is expected to return here on Sunday, the 25th instant, and proceed to Bender to organize the regular service of trains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 268.

Précis of Article from the "Novaia Vremia."

THE "Novaia Vremia" argues that in war it should be the object to do the enemy as much harm as possible, even at the cost of the peaceful inhabitants, otherwise wars confined exclusively to the military would, like the condottiere wars of the 15th and 16th centuries, be of too long duration.

Under the present circumstances it is well to make the large population of Constantinople feel the pressure of war, by the increased price which it will have to pay for wheat which it can obtain more cheaply from the Russian ports.

The blockade proclaimed by Turkey of the South Russian ports has been relaxed by the Ottoman Government in respect to vessels laden with wheat for Constantinople, and there can be no doubt that the shippers from the ports of the Black and Azoff Seas, all almost exclusively foreigners, would have largely availed themselves of the opportunity of shipping wheat for the Turkish capital. The "Novaia Vremia," therefore, strongly approves the project of prohibiting the export of grain from the Russian ports of the South, and calls for measures to prevent the coasting trade, permitted since the outbreak of the war to foreign vessels, being made a means of furnishing supplies to Constantinople.

Inclosure 2 in No. 268.

Prohibition of Export of Articles of Food from the Black and Azoff Seas.

A NOTICE has appeared in the "Official Gazette" of November $\frac{3}{15}$, 1877, prohibiting the exportation from the Black and Azoff Seas of provisions and articles of sustenance.

This order was confirmed by His Imperial Majesty, and communicated by the Minister of War to the proper authorities on November $\frac{2}{14}$, 1877.

St. Petersburgh, November $\frac{3}{15}$, 1877.

Inclosure 3 in No. 268.

Prohibition against Export of Grain abroad from the Ports of the Black and Azoff Seas.

THE "Official Gazette" of November $\frac{2}{14}$, 1877, contains a notice to the above effect, which measure, it states, was sanctioned by His Imperial Majesty on $\frac{\text{October } 30}{\text{November } 11}$, 1877.

The Russian press states that the Government was induced to establish this restriction owing to an apprehension that Russian grain would be exported from the southern ports of Russia to Constantinople in view of the Porte having sanctioned, at the instance of some neutral Powers, the free egress of merchant ships laden with grain from the Black Sea ports.

No. 269.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 630.) *St. Petersburgh, November 14, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive last evening your Lordship's telegram inquiring whether the Russian Government has prohibited all shipments by vessels at Taganrog, bound for or passing through Turkish ports.

I had occasion to see the Russian Minister of Finance to-day, and, in reply to my inquiry, his Excellency stated that this prohibition had been issued at the instigation of the military authorities on account of their receiving information that certain Greek vessels had transported cargoes of grain from Russian ports to Varna.

His Excellency stated that no vessels would be allowed to leave the Russian ports of the Black Sea or Sea of Azoff, charged with grain or provisions or other materials which could be serviceable to an army. His Excellency regretted the necessity of the measure, as it was an evident loss to the Russian producers, but it was rendered necessary by military exigences, and he had vainly endeavoured to find some expedient by which the military necessities could be satisfied without prohibiting generally the shipments in question.

It was impossible, his Excellency observed, to control the direction of a vessel laden with corn when it had once quitted a Russian port, and to be assured that its freight was destined for others than a Turkish port. From what his Excellency said, I imagine that the prohibition in question was issued by the military authorities without his Excellency's previous knowledge, and that he can only now concur in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

P.S.—I have the honour to annex in original, with a *précis* in translation by Mr. Egerton, an article from the "Novoe Vremia" explaining the reasons which have necessitated the prohibition of vessels laden with corn and grain from leaving the ports of the Black and Azoff Seas. I also add a notice that has appeared in the "Official Gazette" prohibiting the exportation from the Black and Azoff Seas of all provisions and articles of sustenance, and also a Memorandum by Mr. Michell on the same subject.

A. L.

No. 270.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 633.) *St. Petersburgh, November 19, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE Russian newspaper "Golos" of November $\frac{7}{19}$, announces, on the authority of a telegram from its correspondent in Asia Minor, that the Russian Administration is being introduced in the Vilhayet of Erzeroum, and that General Skelkovnikow has been appointed Governor of the district of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 271.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 634.) *St. Petersburgh, November 19, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to the transfer of certain Russian merchant-vessels to the United States' flag, reported in Mr. Plunkett's despatch No. 256 of the 29th August, a copy of which was inclosed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 342 of the 19th September, I have ascertained that two vessels bearing the American flag, with "New York" painted in large letters on their stern, arrived at Reval this autumn, and were reported to the United States' Legation.

From inquiries I have made it would appear that these vessels were fictitiously sold to American subjects at New York, which enabled them to obtain American papers, and to hoist the American flag; but in their character as foreign-built vessels they cannot obtain an American register, and by the American statutes are henceforward forbidden to trade with America under penalty of forfeiture.

It is evident therefore that these vessels were fictitiously sold for the purpose of being enabled to make their home voyage secure from seizure by Turkish ships of war, and that on their return here they will resume their primitive nationality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 272.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 636. Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, November 19, 1877.*

My Lord,

I OBSERVE in your Lordship's despatch No. 328, Most Confidential, of the 15th October (copy of which was inclosed to me in your No. 384, Secret, of October 31), that Count Beust, in referring to the mission of General Sumarokoff last year to Vienna, and to the proposals of which he was the bearer, stated that the proposal of the Emperor Alexander was that Russia should occupy Bulgaria, and that Austria should at the same time occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina. I think it right to recall to your Lordship's recollection my despatch No. 519 of November 4, 1876, addressed from Yalta, in which I refer to an alteration in my despatch No. 513, which I had made at the suggestion of Prince Gortchakow.

In my despatch I had stated that the proposal made by Russia to Austria was to occupy Bosnia and the Herzegovina when Prince Gortchakow said that the proposal to Austria was merely to occupy Bosnia, and not the Herzegovina, giving as his explanation that in case of an occupation by the Austrian and Russian troops it was deemed desirable to place a neutral zone between the two armies in order to preclude the possibility of any collision between them.

When I reported Prince Gortchakow's observation to your Lordship I was unable to understand on geographical grounds the motives which had given rise to it, but I now consider it probable that his Highness may have mentally reserved the Herzegovina for future annexation to Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 273.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 648.) *St. Petersburgh, November 21, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, in translation by Mr. Michell, articles from the Russian press, referring to the conditions on which Russia should conclude peace with Turkey.

I also annex a *précis* of two articles in the "Golos" by Mr. Stephen, which is the most moderate and the ablest organ of the Russian press. These articles refer to the rumours of mediation, and seek to prove that an armed mediation or intervention, which

would alone be undertaken by England, would be too late to be effective after the fall of Plevna.

I have learnt here, from a reliable military source, that on the fall of Plevna there are two military plans under consideration for further operations, on which no final decision had yet been taken at head-quarters. They are, namely:—

1. Either to leave the Roumanian corps with a sufficient Russian force to hold Plevna and to secure it from attack on the western and southern side, the remainder of the Russian army now before Plevna being directed against the army of Suleiman Pasha, with a view to reducing the fortresses of the quadrilateral before further advance across the Balkans; or,

2. To march immediately on Sofia and Adrianople, with a view to forcing the Ottoman Government to conclude peace.

I have reason to believe, from what my informant stated, that the second plan is the one most favourably entertained by the military party, and the most likely to be adopted.

With regard to the conditions of peace as discussed in the inclosed articles, your Lordship will see that some fears are entertained by the ultra Russo-Slav party in regard to the future consequences to Russian influence should the independence of Roumania be confirmed by Europe, and its neutrality placed under an European guarantee in the same manner as Belgium. Such a position for Roumania would preclude hereafter the possibility of Russia making use of Roumanian territory as the basis of her military operations against Turkey, and in that case Russia would be virtually deprived of direct contact with Turkey. This would be more especially the case if the Dobrudscha should be given to Roumania in exchange for the slip of Bessarabia ceded by Russia in 1856.

This separation of Russia from contact with Bulgaria would, it is feared, likewise deprive Russia of exercising that influence over the Christian Slavs in northern Turkey which has been her constant aim and ambition, for the purpose of undermining the Ottoman rule.

This question is specially referred to in a letter from Prince Wassiltchikoff, in which, in view of this eventuality, he sets forth the necessity for Russia to have the sole command of the Black Sea, and to demand the cession of the Turkish fleet in lieu of a pecuniary war indemnity.

The same ideas are put forth in a violent article in a Slavophil paper published at Moscow; and although the Imperial Government may not participate in the extravagant pretensions of this ultra party, still their circulation at this moment by the press is calculated to inflame the popular mind, and to render more difficult, if not impossible, the avenue to peace.

The pretensions and demands of the Russian press augment with every Russian victory, as your Lordship will perceive by the inclosed articles from the "Novoe Vremia" and "Golos" on the fall of Kars, both of which organs maintain that there can be no question of restoring that fortress or Pashalic to Turkey, but that it must be kept by Russia, and serve as a basis for "future offensive operations."

From the general tone of these articles it may be clearly deduced that the national aspiration in Russia seeks to acquire sole and undisputed command of the Black Sea and its littoral, to render that sea *mare clausum*, whilst reserving free outlet for the Russian navy to the Mediterranean.

Should a Russian army advance to Adrianople (and of this intention there is not the shadow of a doubt) a force could easily be detached to occupy Gallipoli and the Dardanelles, and I have no doubt that if that important strategic and maritime position should ever fall into the hands of Russia it will be converted into an impregnable fortress, and will not be easily given up.

The same observation may apply to the forts guarding the entry from the Black Sea into the Bosphorus, which, should they ever fall into Russian hands, will be permanently retained and converted into a second Gibraltar.

These are grave eventualities, not only of possible but probable occurrence, and at no distant date, which it behoves Europe, and more especially England, to take into serious consideration before it may be too late to provide measures to prevent their realisation; and it is on this account that I now venture to bring them under your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 273.

Probable Demands of Russia for conclusion of Peace with Turkey, abstracted from the Russian Press by Mr. Michell.

THE following are some of the opinions expressed by the Russian press with regard to the conditions of peace which Russia ought to impose on Turkey on the defeat of the latter:—

The "Yacht" newspaper of the 11th November, 1877, considers that Russia cannot remain satisfied with the acquisition of a small slice of territory in the Dobrudscha, but that her principal compensation should be sought in a free development of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea. The Black Sea must be converted into free Russian waters, out of which Russian ships may be able to penetrate to the ocean without any permissive Firmans. As regards the Turkish fleet, the "Yacht" argues: that if the existence of Turkey is guaranteed by the protection of the Great Powers of Europe, then the fleet of these Powers is sufficient for enforcing such protection, and the money hitherto spent on the construction of Turkish iron-clads could be employed for the amelioration of the condition of the suffering subjects of the Sultan. The maintenance of a formidable Turkish fleet in the Black Sea serves as a constant threat of aggression which Russia must not allow.

Prince Vasiltchikoff, in a letter addressed to the "Severnoi Vestnik" of the 12th November, says that the present war was undertaken by Russia with the openly expressed object of emancipating the Slavs of the Balkan, and at the same time Russia, in order to quiet the apprehensions of the Cabinets of Europe, pledged herself not to annex a single inch of Turkish territory in Europe. Russia, however, did not restrict herself in any way with respect to Asiatic Turkey and the Black Sea; on these lines, therefore, all future peace negotiations will be conducted. In the opinion of Prince Vasiltchikoff the most effectual compensation that Turkey can make Russia would be the cession to the latter of its fleet in the Black Sea. "It may happen," he adds, "that Roumania having consolidated her political existence, and acquired some territory in compensation for her co-operation with Russia in the present war, will no longer wish to serve as a base of operations for Russian armies, under which circumstances she may, by declaring strict neutrality, entirely isolate us from the Balkan peninsula. Austria also may find it inconvenient to resist any longer the Turcophil tendencies of the Magyars and Galician Poles, and may possibly unite with them in defence of their interests on the Danube. In a word, the position of Russia in European Turkey is so unstable and indefinite, and the line of communication between Russia and the Turkish Slavs so extended, that it is not possible to establish and preserve Russian influence and relations over the future destinies of the Balkan peninsula. Another basis and line of communication must be sought which would present fewer political obstacles and less complicated interests. The Black Sea presents all these advantages."

The "Petersburg Vedomist" declares that no idea of peace can be entertained by Russia until she has completely vanquished her enemy in the field, and attained the great object of the war, namely, the emancipation of Bulgaria from the Turkish yoke. Both the military honour and the vital interests of the country will not be satisfied with less. As regards compensation and indemnity, which are to be demanded by Russia from Turkey, the "Petersburg Vedomist" observes a discreet silence.

Inclosure 2 in No. 273

View of Extreme Section of the Russian Press respecting Conditions to be secured by Russia for the conclusion of Peace with Turkey.

THE "Sovremenoi Isvesti" ("Contemporary News"), a violent Slavophil and patriotic organ, published at Moscow, expresses itself as follows on this subject:—

"Turkey must surrender her fleet to Russia, and the Black Sea must be exclusively Russian, while Turkey must only be tolerated there as a guest on sufferance. She must not have the right to maintain a fleet in our sea, nor the right of introduction of such a fleet into our sea. She must, moreover, abandon the right of erecting and maintaining fortresses at Varna and Sinope, and generally along the whole coast of the Black Sea. The Black Sea is ours, as also must be its Straits. The territories adjoining them must also belong to us, though not in the sense, maybe, of permanent occupation. They may belong to anyone, and rather to the Sultan than to anyone else; but not a single vessel

of war of any Power, not even excepting Turkey, must possess the right of approaching those territories. How can such a condition of the Straits be best established? It is possible to stipulate that the Russians should possess the right of maintaining garrisons in fortresses on the coast, that of permanent anchorage for ships-of-war in the Bosphorus, or, lastly, which would be much simpler, the right of immediate occupation of the capital of Turkey and both shores of the Bosphorus at the appearance of an armed foreign cruizer in the Dardanelles. With the prohibition against the entrance of any foreign vessels into the Bosphorus, are we to exercise the right of free entrance into the Mediterranean? Most certainly we must, together with the right of free exit. This is only the natural consequence of our exclusive right over the Black Sea; without this right the Black Sea would not be ours, and this must be made an essential condition."

As regards acquisition of territory in Asia, the "Sovremenoi Isvesti" expresses great surprise at the ignorance which prevails with respect to the importance of Mesopotamia, by the possession of which Russia will most effectually destroy that insect which destroys all the links that Russia may form in the East. That insect, the "Sovremenoi Isvesti" proceeds to say, is England:—

"So long as the question of Mesopotamia is not finally settled, so long as that key to the old world is not placed in firm hands, a thousand pretexts will always be found by England for the purpose of wresting from her rival, Russia, the dominion over the world. Divide the watershed of Mesopotamia between Turkey, Russia, and Persia, so that the first should be as much isolated from the Persian Gulf as the approach of the latter to that Gulf is now facilitated, and such an event will be to England a second secession of the United States of America; she will then find herself forced to bow before the irrevocable."

The "Sovremenoi Isvesti," in its patriotic fervour, also informs its readers, with reference to the recent prohibited exportation of sheep-skins from Russia, that English agents still continue to buy up these skins in Moscow and to transport them abroad in barrels under the guise of salt beef.

Inclosure 3 in No. 273.

Extract from the "Golos" of November $\frac{3}{15}$, 1877.

THE "Golos" in its impression of Wednesday, November $\frac{3}{15}$, commenting on an article in the "Times" on the prospects of peace, concludes as follows:—

"We should strive to keep England in her present isolated position. To do this we must carefully weigh all that can possibly affect the interests of the Continental Powers, and not alone consider the interests of Great Britain. This is not difficult. The new order of things in European Turkey may not, in certain details, be entirely in harmony with the interests of some of the Continental Powers, but nothing of the kind can be said with regard to Asia.

"If the programme of the conditions of peace advanced by Russia is only drawn up in such a way as not to affect the interests of Austria, Italy, France, and Germany, we need not be so particular as to the manner it may affect English interests."

Inclosure 4 in No. 273.

Extract from the "Golos" of November $\frac{4}{16}$, 1877.

RUMOURS of mediation continue to circulate; they refer, of course, to mediation on the part of England alone, as it has long been evident to all that the Western Powers are firmly determined to remain passive spectators of present military events until circumstances should induce the Porte to sue for peace, and enter upon negotiations with Russia.

Up till now nothing has occurred to change this resolve. Germany and Italy entertain the same views that have led them from the outset of the war to maintain a neutrality sympathetic to Russia; Austria-Hungary sees no cause for fear in a Russian success at Plevna until our advanced guard shall have crossed the Balkans, and be threatening Adrianople, nor does she show any intention of renouncing the policy of the Triple Alliance. Alone, England, or more correctly speaking, the Conservative Cabinet of Lord Beaconsfield, regards the approach of our troops on Erzeroum, together with the disasters of Mukhtar Pasha, as sufficient ground for an effort to avert from Turkey the consequences

of the complete triumph of the Russian troops over the armies of the Ottoman Empire. It is only from this quarter that any proposal of mediation may be expected.

What are the results that the English Government look for as the outcome of mediation? It ought to be well known in London that Russia will accept no mediation unless the conditions of peace proposed by the St. James' Cabinet include the concessions on the part of Turkey which the Russian Government have declared to be unconditionally requisite. As nothing of the kind can be looked for from Lord Beaconsfield, English mediation will undoubtedly be rejected, and England will either have to resume her inaction, or adopt a course of armed intervention in support of Turkey.

Such an intervention can only have practical results in the event of its preventing the fall of Plevna, and the march of the Russian troops across the Balkans. Practically speaking, the question resolves itself into one of rapidity of action. The first step taken by England, should she decide on armed intervention, would naturally be to dispatch a strong British force to Turkey. To accomplish this, it is true, no considerable space of time would be needed. Three weeks after their dispatch from the Channel, English troops might well appear at Gallipoli; but the difficulty lies in the fact that, before the troops can embark the Government must call Parliament together and obtain the necessary supplies, without which the despatch of any considerable body of troops to Turkey would be utterly impossible. Two weeks would be required at least for these preliminaries, so that the descent of the English troops on Turkish soil could not be effected earlier than five weeks from the date of the fall of Plevna, which event alone can decently justify interference. These five weeks are more than military events should require to convince the Porte of the necessity of separate negotiation with Russia. The English troops would arrive, in any case, too late to execute Lord Beaconsfield's schemes.

All this is well known to the Premier's colleagues, who would assuredly not allow England to be drawn into such a scandalous fiasco. Thus these rumours of English intervention will remain mere rumours, indicative of no firm decision on the part of the English Government, but rather of the impotent "covetousness" of the head of the Cabinet.

Inclosure 5 in No. 273.

Opinions of the Russian Press respecting the Capture of Kars.

THE "Novai Vremya" of the 7/19th November expresses the greatest satisfaction on the subject of this great military success of Russia, and records the fact that Kars has been captured thrice by Russian arms, namely, on July 3, 1828; November 16, 1855; and now on November 7/19, 1877. It observes, that having now fallen into Russian hands for the third time with great sacrifice of life, and after such sustained and strenuous efforts, Kars must not be surrendered, but must remain a Russian town, a Russian fortress, and one of Russia's strongest bulwarks in Asia Minor. Russia, it also remarks, will henceforward pursue the same policy in Asia Minor as in the Balkan peninsula, that is, she will endeavour to destroy Turkish rule over the Christians, and to secure her southern boundaries.

The "Golos" of the same date says that the fall of Kars constitutes the factitious establishment of Russian power in the Pashalic of Kars, and serves as a firm basis for future offensive operations. In what direction and for what objects such further operations are to be conducted, it considers the present hour inopportune to discuss. Exultation and rejoicing are, in its opinion, only appropriate to this hour of triumph.

No. 274.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 26.*)

(No. 425.)

Berlin, November 24, 1877.

My Lord,

THE report originally circulated by the "Agence Russe" that the Porte had taken the first step towards mediation by addressing itself to Prince Reuss appears to have been seriously entertained by the German newspapers.

Hitherto no direct denial has been given to the statement in question, but the "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" published, on the 21st instant, an article, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, which has apparently been communicated by the Press Bureau, and which may perhaps merit notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure in No. 274.

Extract from the "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of November 21, 1877.

(Translation.)

WHEN, a few days ago, the news was spread far and wide by the "Agence Russe" that the Porte had applied to the German Ambassador in Constantinople to obtain the mediation of Germany for peace negotiations, but that the Turkish Government had been referred by Prince Reuss to the Russian head-quarters, we gave expression to our feelings of self-congratulation at the distinguished part which, whether the report was founded or not, was unconditionally assigned to the German Empire.

In many organs of the press, however, especially in the Austrian journals, the above intelligence, whilst regarded as undoubtedly true, was discussed from a different point of view. Some Vienna papers even directly accused Prince Reuss of having refused to take advantage of this opportunity offered him of bringing about a peace.

We shall not discuss the question of how far this action attributed to the Ambassador of Germany is a fact; but even were these suppositions true, we could only say that German Representative could not have given any other answer than the one with which he is credited to the request said to have been made by the Porte. It is always difficult to put oneself in another's place; but the events of 1870 are still fresh enough in everybody's memory to let us ask ourselves what we should then have said had Russia, to a request of France to mediate with Germany for peace negotiations.

The foreign press, which is still full of the idea that sooner or later Germany will try to mediate between the two belligerents in the present war, will, it may be safely predicted, find out its mistake.

Just as in 1871 we should have considered it incompatible with Russia's friendship for Germany, and even as an injury to our national honour, if Russia had, at the demand of France, appeared before us as a mediator, even so will the German Government find it hard to reconcile it with their relations to Russia to take up the position of the advocate of Turkish desire for peace before the Government of the Emperor Alexander.

If, then, Prince Reuss was really applied to by the Porte for mediation, he could not, in fact, have given a more judicious answer than that which has been assigned to him; but whether he really has had occasion to act thus may just as well remain undiscussed to-day as it did a few days since.

No. 275.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 26.*)

(Extrait.)

(Télégraphique.)

(Confidentielle.)

Il n'est jamais entré dans l'intention de la Sublime Porte de s'entendre directement avec la Russie. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique peut être assuré qu'en aucun cas nous ne consentirons à traiter de la paix en dehors de lui. Nous savons combien l'appui de l'Angleterre nous est nécessaire. Nous y attachons un immense prix, et nous croyons de notre devoir de faire tout notre possible pour le conserver. Il me suffit d'en appeler à ce sujet au témoignage de Mr. Layard que nous nous sommes fait une loi de consulter toujours dans les graves questions qui nous occupent actuellement.

Les derniers revers que nos armes ont malheureusement essuyés ne sont pas de nature à nous alarmer. Vous savez qu'au commencement de la guerre les Russes s'étaient une première fois déjà avancés jusqu'à Erzéroum, et que nos troupes les avaient victorieusement repoussés. La gloire dont nos armes se sont couvertes en Roumélie restera dans l'histoire; et, si, par un concours de circonstances fatales ou par le fait de la négligence de quelques uns de nos généraux, les Russes sont parvenus à traverser le Danube, ils n'en ont pas moins rencontré depuis, de notre part, une résistance telle qu'ils ont perdu, d'après des données positives, plus de 120,000 hommes.

La Turquie lutte pour la sauvegarde de son indépendance et de son intégrité. La force et la vitalité qu'elle a montrées doivent nous attirer la sympathie et le respect de l'Europe. Elle se bat à elle seule avec un ennemi redoutable contre lequel se sont heurtées, lors de la guerre de Crimée, les forces de quatre grandes Puissances ; avec un ennemi qui s'est, en outre, assuré la coopération de cinq peuples, car, outre les Moldo-Valaques qu'on a laissés agir librement, et les Bulgares qui se battent à côté des Russes, et le Monténégro qui agit isolément, les velléités belliqueuses de la Grèce et de la Servie nous obligent de maintenir sur leurs frontières plus de 160 bataillons. Indépendamment de tout cela, un nouveau corps d'armée sera bientôt prêt sous le commandement de Mehmed Ali Pacha à Sofia, et nous avons déjà pris, en prévision d'une durée plus longue de la guerre, nos mesures pour appeler au printemps sous les drapeaux des troupes fraîches.

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, son Gouvernement et le pays tout entier, Musulmans comme Chrétiens, sont prêts à tous les sacrifices pour sauvegarder l'honneur et l'intégrité de la patrie. Nous comptons pour atteindre ce but sur l'appui moral et effectif de l'Angleterre, dont les intérêts sont intimément liés avec les nôtres. Nous espérons que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique nous prêtera son assistance au moment plus tôt, car tout retard serait de nature à empêcher, d'un côté, la réalisation des réformes déjà arrêtées par notre auguste Maître et, de l'autre, à paralyser la bonne administration de l'Etat.

Je ne peux m'empêcher d'ajouter que le Gouvernement Impérial, qui n'a jamais cherché la guerre, et qui a tout fait, au contraire, pour éviter cette calamité, déplore profondément l'effusion du sang et n'en appelle pas moins de tous ses vœux la cessation des hostilités. Notre désir est sincère et nous nous déclarons prêts à signer toute paix qui ne porterait aucune atteinte à l'indépendance et à l'intégrité de l'Empire.

En résumé, je dois dire à votre Excellence que le Gouvernement Impérial est fermement décidé à déployer tous ses efforts pour la défense de son indépendance et de son intégrité. Mais votre Excellence comprendra aisément que la mise à exécution des nouvelles mesures militaires que nous avons arrêtées demande forcément du temps qui pourrait tourner à l'avantage de l'ennemi.

Veuillez vous exprimer dans ce sens auprès de son Excellence Lord Derby.

No. 276.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 501.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 25, 1877.*

THE Sultan has issued an Imperial Decree ordering the Christians to be enrolled in the Civic Guard for the defence of the country, thus placing them on the same footing as the Mussulmans. This Decree has produced a very favourable impression upon many influential Christians.

No. 277.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 502.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 25, 1877.*

CONSUL GREEN telegraphs to-day :—

"Commander-in-chief believing that, as English Consul, I was prepared to take any action that might possibly lead to the cessation of the horrors of war which the presence of the Montenegrins has brought to the gates of Scutari, sent for me on the 21st, and asked me whether I would go to the Prince of Montenegro's head-quarters, and endeavour to ascertain how far hostilities were dependent on conditions which the Prince might be disposed to make known, so that his Excellency might submit them to the Porte.

"I suggested that I should write to the Prince, but he preferred my making the communication verbally.

"I therefore telegraphed to M. Duby to ask whether His Highness would receive me, and where.

"At the same time I telegraphed to the Earl of Derby in order that my departure might be stopped should his Lordship not approve of it.

"I have not yet received answers from Montenegro and Foreign Office.

"The position of the Turkish Commander-in-chief is most painful. His force is quite insufficient to repel the enemy, whose audacity has spread terror in the whole country. The western district of lake is in flames, and the population is flying before the enemy.

"The irregulars are worse than worthless, and the few battalions gathered round Scutari are forced to retire step by step. Muric has been abandoned, and Podgoritza has to be left to its own resources, while Antivari and Scutari are so seriously threatened.

"Commander-in-chief has asked Porte to publish blockade of Antivari.

"Not telegraphed home."

No. 278.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 503.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 25, 1877.*

AMONG ships seized in the Bosphorus for breach of the blockade, and which will be condemned by the Prize Court, are two Greek vessels chartered by Italians. Italian Government demand that they shall be released, and appear disposed to use threats, although hitherto they have insisted on blockade being made effective. Porte pleads that Greek vessels having been condemned, those claimed by Italians cannot be released, and is in great difficulties. Would you communicate with Italian Government, and advise some arrangement? Italian Government's demand is founded on two grounds: that there has not been an effective blockading squadron, and that the vessels were seized after they had passed through the line of blockade.

No. 279.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 26, 1877.*

LAST Sunday Russian instructions arrived desiring that Servia should be in readiness for action at a moment's notice. Yesterday, Foreign Minister said that there might still be delay for weeks, but that a decision within twenty-four hours was not impossible. At Belgrade it is believed that the whole militia will be sent to the frontier next week: this is probable.

All depends on further orders from Emperor Alexander.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 280.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 25, 1877.*

OFFICIAL telegram, dated Bogot, November 24, states that yesterday, after a fight of two days against the elements and enemy, our troops have taken the position, almost impregnable and strongly intrenched, of Pravetz, between Orchanié and Etropol. Enemy fled in complete disorder. Nightfall and fatigue prevented pursuit yesterday. An attack on Teteven, lasting from 10 till 4, was repulsed.

No. 281.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 102. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, November 15, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch, Political, No. 100 of the 6th instant, regarding the election of Deputies to the National Assembly, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Petraki Effendi, who was at Vienna at the time of his election, has telegraphed his refusal to proceed to Constantinople as Deputy, and that a certain Pero, a watchmaker by

trade and a member of the Catholic community of Serajevo, has consequently been elected in his place. The Orthodox population of Bosnia will thus have no Representative in the Assembly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 282.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 103. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, November 16, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a Declaration drawn up about a month ago at Tiskovac by certain individuals styling themselves the Provisional National Bosnian Government. I am told that there was a considerable gathering of insurgents on the occasion, but that having elected the members of the Provisional Government they quickly dispersed again.

Vladimir Tonin, who signs himself as President, is brother of the Russian Consul at Ragusa. He was also formerly in the Consular service, and was some time Secretary of the Russian Consulate in this town.

This Declaration is considered to be a protest more especially against an Austrian occupation of the country, and to have been made in consequence of the reported activity of certain Austrian agents who, it is said, have been lately travelling in the province to obtain signatures in favour of annexation to Austria. It is even rumoured, although I give this intelligence under the strictest reserve, that the Austrian Consul-General here, M. Theodorovich, is implicated in this matter, but this rumour may not improbably have its origin in the fact that M. Theodorovich has rather unexpectedly been transferred to Tunis, and will leave as soon as his successor, M. Wassitsch, arrives from Scutari in Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 282.

Declaration of the Provisional National Bosnian Government.

(Translation.)

IN consequence of the present critical circumstances, when the decisive hour strikes for the whole Bosnian people as well as for all the Christians of Turkey, and the whole Bosnian people having understood this decisive and supreme moment when it must itself defend and protect its own interests, as well on the field of battle as on that of politics, and also declare before the whole of Europe in what consist its wishes and with what aim it has shed its blood.

In consequence of these motives a National Bosnian Assembly was held on Bosnian territory, at which Assembly the Provisional National Bosnian Government has been elected, confirmed, and proclaimed. Such great national power has been accorded to the Provisional National Bosnian Government that it alone may be able to protect and defend all national interests until the time of its deliverance from the Turkish yoke, and until a definitive solution of the Bosnian question.

We, the undersigned, to whom is intrusted so high a mission by the whole people, consider it our first duty to bring to the knowledge of the public the wishes and intentions of the Bosnian people before the whole of Europe and the whole Slav nation, with the prayer to consider this as the sole and true declaration of the wishes and intentions of the Bosnian people.

The Provisional National Bosnian Government declares, therefore, that never has the Bosnian people desired, nor will desire, annexation to any State whatsoever. It declares, therefore, that all the reports spread by sundry journals to this intent are false and inexact.

The Bosnian people shed its blood for a final deliverance from the Turkish yoke, that it might unite itself with the other Servian lands. If this, our vital union, cannot be effected, owing to European circumstances, then the Bosnian people desires complete liberty and a national political autonomy, without, however, renouncing its historico-

national right, in the nearest possible future, to form one State with the other Servian lands, which eventually might be most advantageous to Slav interests in general.

The Provisional National Bosnian Government, publicly declaring its wishes and intentions, beseeches all the European Powers not to place obstacles in the way of the suffering Slav, the Bosnian people, attaining its wishes and rights, national and historical, for which it has shed its blood during so many ages.

At the same time, we beg all the European Governments to assist us in every possible way to free ourselves from the Turkish yoke, that we may not become the victims of the interests of others. We beg all our brother Slavs to extend to us the fraternal hand, and not to allow us to succumb for want of assistance.

To all those who give either moral or material aid to our unfortunate people we express the warmest gratitude, beseeching them at the same time to remember in the future our misery.

Given at the head-quarters at Tiskovac, 27th September / 9th October, 1877.

Members of the Provisional National Bosnian Government:

(Signed) VLADIMIR JONIN, *President.*
JOVO BILBIA, } *Secretaries.*
JOVO SKOBLJA, }
VID MILANOVIC.
PERO KRECO.
POP V. KOVACHEVIC.
POP JOVO PECENAC.
DAMUS GJUREGA.
NICO BURO.
ILIA SEVIC.
ILIA TRKIC.
MATE JURETA (*Catholic*).
GIOGO DESPOTOVIC.
TRIVAN BUNDALO.
BOZO LJUBOJEVIC.

No. 283.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 27, 1877, 2·35 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 22nd instant, you may go to Prince Nicholas' head-quarters, if the answer from Montenegro is favourable.

No. 284.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 765.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 27, 1877, 2·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to Mr. Green's telegram of 25th, I have informed him that he may go to Prince Nicholas' head-quarters, if answer from Montenegro is favourable.

No. 285.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. [illegible])
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 27, 1877, 6·15 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 198 of the 23rd duly considered, but fear it would not be of any useful advantage for Her Majesty's Government to make any representation at Washington as to Gesholfs.

No. 286.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 768.) *Foreign Office, November 27, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1029 of the 12th instant, on the subject of the breach of blockade by Greek vessels; and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which your Excellency employed in the conversation with Server Pasha, reported in your despatch above mentioned.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 287.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 115. Political.) *Scutari, November 14, 1877.*

My Lord,

WHEN the Princess of Montenegro recently left for Naples, Her Highness was accompanied by the Voïvode Bogio Petrovich, President of the Senate, and cousin of Prince Nicholas.

The Voïvode has proved the most successful General since the commencement of the present Montenegrin war, and therefore the reason for his departure, at a moment when active operations were about to be resumed, could not be one of private or family convenience, and it was immediately announced that his journey was connected with a political object to be gained at Rome.

I understand that M. Bogio Petrovich has now returned to Montenegro, and I doubt not that his visit to Rome was for the purpose of giving and receiving assurances regarding the contemplated advance on Antivari.

My Italian colleague informs me that his Government has withdrawn its objections to the possession by Montenegro of a port on the Adriatic.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 288.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 505.) *Therapia, November 27, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

MOUKHTAR PASHA states to the Grand Vizier that the losses of the Russians in Armenia from the attacks on Kars and Erzeroum, and from other causes, are so considerable that in his opinion they will be unable to resume offensive.

No. 289.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 506.) *Therapia, November 27, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

A PROCLAMATION in the sense that I have recommended will be issued to-morrow to the Bulgarians.

No. 290.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 507.) *Therapia, November 27, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

ORDERS have been sent for the immediate release of the Greek ship at Rhodes.

No. 291.

Vice-Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, November 27, 1877.*

THE whole sea coast between Antivari and Austrian territory is in the hands of Montenegrins. One fort at Antivari still holds out.

No. 292.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 27, 1877.*

I HAVE received following figures from Mr. Ricketts at Tiflis:—

"With the 26th Division now coming from Russia, there are, I think, in all 182 battalions, of which 32 are in Eastern Caucasus and 20 on defensive part of frontier. Consequently, 130 must be employed between Kars and Erzeroum. On the three routes Turkish army requires strong reinforcements; also a large reserve at Trebizond itself. Field force ought to be 60,000. Russian steamer 'Grand Duke Constantine' brought torpedo steamer to Poti on the 13th instant. People of Batoum should be watchful."

No. 293.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 28, 1877.*

ENTIRE Belgrade militia will depart fully equipped on Thursday and Friday next in slow marches. Notwithstanding completion of preparations, future movements, and consequently action or inactivity of Servia, still dependent on plan of operations of the Emperor of Russia's head-quarters.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 294.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 51.) *Tunis, November 15, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 49 of the 9th instant, on the subject of the representations which the French Acting Consul had made to the Bey to dissuade him from sending a contingent of men to Constantinople, I have the honour to state that, on his return to Tunis, M. Roustan renewed those representations, in stronger language, to His Highness on the part of his Government.

He blamed the Regent for his compliance with the requisition of the Porte, observing that, had he applied to the Representatives of Great Britain, France, and Italy, they would have assisted him to escape from his embarrassment by explaining to the Porte, through their respective Governments, the financial state of the country. He had not only compromised his position, but His Highness had exposed himself to an attack by Russia, at the same time that, by incurring an unnecessary expense, he would be unable to pay the coupon of next January, upon the payment of which, however, his Government would insist.

The Bey replied in the same sense which he did to M. Cassas, and assured M. Roustan that the outlay for the expeditionary corps would be defrayed out of the second public subscription, without in any way interfering either with the revenues of the Government or those conceded to its creditors.

Notwithstanding this assurance, M. Roustan desired to see the foreign delegates of the Finance Commission, and stated to them that it was their duty, for the protection of the interests of the creditors, to protest against the Government sending a contingent of men to Constantinople.

With the exception of one of the French Delegates, they replied that they were not authorized to intervene in matters of a political character, which were solely within the sphere of the foreign Representatives; neither could they interfere with the rights of the

Bey, so long as his Government did not employ the financial resources of the country in carrying out his obligations towards Turkey.

Subsequently the Finance Commission met, and on the declaration of its President that no part of the public revenue would be expended for firing out the expeditionary corps, the Delegates expressed themselves satisfied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD

No. 295.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 68. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, November 17, 1877.*

I HAD the honour to receive, on the 14th instant, your Lordship's telegram of the previous day, by which your Lordship informs me that the Grand Vizier had again assured his Excellency Mr. Layard that if the Cretans would send Delegates to Constantinople to lay their grievances before the Porte, efforts would be made to satisfy them, and that I may recommend the Christians to take this step.

I beg to state that the task your Lordship has been pleased to assign to me is beset with great difficulties. It would have been no easy matter to have brought the Christians to a fitting frame of mind for taking such a step two months ago, when their hopes of the overthrow of the Turkish domination in the island were at the lowest; and now that the recent Russian successes have kindled their enthusiasm, I see little chance of their listening to advice so unpalatable. I have broached the subject to two of the leading native Christians of this town, who I knew would gladly see any course adopted which offered a reasonable hope of bringing about a compromise between the Cretans and the Porte; but though themselves not opposed to the course I recommended, they assured me that it stood no chance of acceptance with their countrymen. Nevertheless, I do not despair of gaining over a few persons who will bring their influence to bear on others; but it is important to bear in mind that power now mainly resides in the Committee and the recognized Chiefs, who, since the arrest of Argyraki, rarely venture to show themselves in the towns, and who are therefore beyond my reach.

I have thought it my duty to lay the subject thus fully before your Lordship, in order that it may be understood how little it now lies in my power to influence the course of events, owing to the absence of persons of note from this town. Having for some time observed the repugnance of the Christians to send the Commission as ordered by the Porte, I had ventured to suggest that the Porte should send a Commission here, if she could be done without a sacrifice of dignity.

I would venture to remark, in conclusion, that a considerable feeling of soreness has latterly existed on the part of the Cretan Christians towards England, due to the mistaken notion that Her Majesty's Government is less careful of the interests of the Greek subject races than of those of their rulers. The prevalence of this feeling, which has crossed over from Greece, will make the islanders less disposed than formerly to listen to advice coming from me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 296.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 70. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, November 19, 1877.*

THE state of disorder prevailing in Crete has reached a pitch which may without exaggeration be called anarchy. Robbery is carried on with perfect impunity, and the peaceably-disposed are in despair at being despoiled of their sheep and cattle, which are chiefly exposed to the depredations of the robbers. One district, that of Miloputamos, where the population is mainly Christian, has organized a police of its own, quite independent of the Government, and there only, except in the towns, can security be said to exist. A Christian girl, niece of a leading Sphakian, was carried away a few days

ago by a party of Sphakians, to be forcibly married by one of them. They were attacked on the road by the girl's kinsmen, who succeeded in rescuing her, but not before three or four on either side were killed in the fray. Blood feuds of old standing have cut another now that an opportunity is afforded of gratifying pent-up passions with impunity. I am credibly informed that the Committee, seeing the pass to which things have come, have written to the Cretan Committee in Athens asking their co-operation in organizing a revolt here, as the only means of uniting all parties, and quelling private quarrels. I cannot say whether this policy will meet with the approbation of their brethren in Greece.

Saadi Pasha has latterly received authority to choose two Christian Judges for the Court of Appeal, to fill up the vacancies which the General Assembly had refused to nominate to. The two Judges of his Excellency's choice have just signalized their administration by driving a bargain with their two Mussulman colleagues, which curiously exemplifies their notions of justice. The Mahomedan Judges were anxious to release from prison two of their co-religionists accused of murdering a Christian in Candia, and they drew up a sentence recording their innocence. On presenting it for signature to the Christian Judges, the latter refused to sign it except on the condition of their Mahomedan colleagues testifying to the innocence of two Christians proved by ample testimony to have murdered a Jew. The bargain was struck, and all four prisoners are released.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 297.

Vice-Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—Received November 29.)

Ragusa, November 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE had private information from Montenegro that the British Consul at Scutari has applied to the Prince of Montenegro for an interview, and that His Highness, suspecting himself to be again the bearer of a message from the Turks, would rather not receive him, and consequently has given an evasive answer.

No. 298.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 29.)

Pera[illegible], November 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
GRAND DUKE WLADIMIR yesterday repulsed attack on Mecka and Trestenik positions.

No. 299.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 29.)

Pera[illegible], November 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
FROM a conversation with M. de Hamburger I gather that Russia will attempt to keep Kars or insist on the dismantlement of the fortress. "For," said he, "this is not our last war with Turkey."

He gave this simply as a personal opinion.

He said that the longer Turkey resists the more severe will be the conditions of Russia.

Weather bright and frosty.

No. 300.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 29.)

Scutari, November 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to state that I informed Her Majesty's Ambassador on the 25th instant that the reply from Montenegro

is to effect that the Prince cannot fix a place where I can see His Highness until present military operations have taken a more certain shape, and his head-quarters are less changeable.

Turkish Commander-in-chief has, therefore, decided to make no further attempt to be brought into communication with Prince without instructions from Porte.

My private opinion is that with three battalions and two men-of-war now arriving off mouth of River Boyana he will not be able to accomplish much, and he, therefore, will regret it if no more direct action is taken in the sense of my recent telegrams.

Montenegrins are reported to be concentrating near Antivari, in the belief that the Turks will be able to assume the offensive. Latter will probably confine themselves to bombarding the coast batteries and maintaining blockade.

The burning of villages by the Montenegrins continues, and is visible from this.

Permission has been now granted for the free passage of all my telegrams.

Telegraphed to Constantinople.

No. 301.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

Foreign Office, November 29, 1877, 7·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday and my previous telegram of this day, you should take no further steps for opening communication between the Turkish Commander-in-chief and the Prince of Montenegro without instructions from home.

No. 302.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 409. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 29, 1877.

My Lord,

THE German Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me the result of the inquiries which he had promised to make (as mentioned in my despatch No. 394 of the 14th instant) respecting the supplies of gunpowder and military stores which had been reported to have passed the German frontier into Russia.

Count Münster told me he had ascertained that no war material of this kind had been supplied to the Russian Government from any public department or magazine in Germany. Convoys of powder had been sent, but from private firms, and the fact of their being under the superintendence of German artillerymen was no more than the usual precaution enjoined by the German law for the security of the public under such circumstances.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 303.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 1349.)

Therapia, November 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a despatch which, in pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's No. 508 of 18th ultimo, I addressed to Consul Barker, and of his answer thereto. Your Lordship will judge whether the explanation given by Mr. Barker of his statement as regards the Turkish Government, and the conduct of the irregulars towards the Christian population, is satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 303.

Mr. Layard to Acting Consul Barker.

Therapia, October 29, 1877.

Sir,

IN your despatch to the Earl of Derby No. 59, Political, of the 3rd instant, you state that "all the acts of the Turkish Government show an indifference in regard to Christian life and property, as evinced on many occasions, and lately by the great levies of irregular troops, who have done nothing but pillage the Christian villagers and, when resisted, put them to death."

Such sweeping assertions should not be made unless they can be literally substantiated, and I am directed by the Earl of Derby to call upon you to explain your statements.

I have also to call your attention to the fact that you have not yet informed me, although repeatedly requested to do so, upon what authority you reported to me on the 23rd July last, that a "levée en masse" of the Mahomedans had taken place at Ghenowrgiun, and that great excesses had been committed upon the Christians there, and in the villages near it, and whether that statement was well-founded.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 303.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, November 7, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 29th October, requiring me to explain my despatch No. 59 to the Earl of Derby, and substantiate the statement I made with reference to the idea I had formed of the indifference of the Porte in regard to Christian life and property.

Our Governor-General, Nousret Pasha, during nearly a whole month, received repeated telegrams and petitions from the Christian populations of Salonica and Thessaly, who complained of the excesses and extortions of the irregular new levies, but he paid no attention whatever to them, saying he had no instructions from his superiors to interfere. And although these accounts were much exaggerated, as they always are, still the main facts were not denied by him, for afterwards he did take measures to repress them.

To allow nearly a whole month to elapse before any measures were taken, shows "indifference" to say the least of it. Perhaps the blame lay with him and not with his Government, for His Imperial Majesty the Sultan is known to be exceedingly kind and humane.

The circumstances of my taking the liberty to address the Minister were exceptional.

The sale of revolvers to the Moslem "roughs" of this city had created a panic because the Feast of Bairam was going to begin, a time when thirty days' fasting renders Moslems peculiarly irritable, and fanatical outbreaks occur; there were assemblies in the mosques as before the murder of the Consuls last year; an insufficient number of regular troops; no men of war here; and I was not permitted by the authorities to telegraph to your Excellency to engage the Porte to prevent the sending here of more revolvers, contemplated by Nousret Pasha. As the post was just leaving for England, I thought if I wrote to his Lordship the letter would reach London in six days, and a telegram be sent to your Excellency for this purpose, and arrive in time for the much-dreaded Bairam feast.

I first sent a telegram to his Lordship, which was accepted, and my despatch was intended to explain that telegram; but afterwards the telegram was returned to me, and the despatch alone went.

Since the murder of the Consuls last year, there has always been a fear of fanatical outbreaks; I did what I could to prevent any such catastrophe. My despatch to his Lordship was dictated by that desire. Three of my colleagues were absent, and the fourth refused to go with me, as not being on good terms with the Governor; so I went alone to the Palace, and, laying before his Excellency the state of public fear and excitement, I begged him to treble the patrol and night guards. He received me very kindly, as we are on excellent terms, adopted my suggestion, and assured me he would go himself, if required, to prevent disturbances; and I must say he was as good as his word. The panic subsided in three or four days, and the Feast of Bairam passed over without disorder.

The departure of the steamer did not give me time to state these particulars in my despatch No. 59.

I ought very soon afterwards to have sent another despatch to his Lordship, and explained all this, and reported that the Governor's energy has restored confidence and tranquillity to the city; but, unfortunately, I fell ill, and was laid up with Salonica fever for a week, and the mass of public business I had to get through when I got up caused me to omit doing so.

If I have erred, it has been through excess of zeal to avert a catastrophe which, by the distribution of revolvers, appeared imminent under the peculiar circumstances of the case.

The Governor has succeeded in maintaining order till now, but who can say if he (or his successor) will always be able to restrain the passions of a fanatical mob with revolvers in their hands?"

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 304.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 30.*)

(No. 1350.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 17, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1110 of September 24, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the despatch addressed by M. Tricoupi to the Greek Minister at the Porte, with respect to the circular of the Turkish Government closing the passage into the Gulf of Arta from sunset to sunrise. This document, which was communicated by M. Condouriotis to Server Pasha, has been given to me confidentially.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 304.

M. Tricoupi to M. Condouriotis.

Athènes, le , 1877.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI pris connaissance de la note qui vous a été adressée en date du 25 Septembre par son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte en réponse à la vôtre du 26 Août (12 Septembre) et relative à la navigation du Golfe d'Arta.

Server Pacha déclare dans sa note "que le Gouvernement Impérial reconnaît, comme il a toujours reconnu, le droit pour les bâtiments Grecs de franchir librement le Détroit de Prévéza, soit à l'entrée soit à la sortie du Golfe d'Arta, ainsi qu'il a été établi par une stipulation spéciale de l'Acte de 1832."

Cette déclaration aurait dû suffire pour mettre fin à toute discussion. Le retrait de la mesure prise de la Porte, prohibant le passage du Détroit pendant la nuit, en serait la conséquence logique.

La liberté du passage proclamée en faveur des bâtiments Grecs par l'acte constitutif des droits de la Porte sur le fort de Punta est absolue; elle n'admet aucune distinction entre la navigation d'entrée ou de sortie, entre celle de jour ou de nuit. Les droits de la Grèce ainsi définis relèvent directement du Traité, et existent au même titre que ceux de la Porte sur le fort de Punta. Nos bâtiments exercent le droit de passage en vertu de ce Traité et sans tenir compte des permissions ou des prohibitions émanant d'autorités n'ayant aucun titre pour en émettre.

Telle étant la condition créée à la navigation du Détroit par le Traité de Constantinople et la liberté de passage consacrée par ce Traité étant expressément reconnue par Server Pacha dans sa note, nous avons tout lieu d'être surpris, en voyant son Excellence prendre dans cette même note la défense d'une mesure qui équivaut à la négation de la liberté de passage. D'après Server Pacha, la possession par la Turquie de Punta, en face de Prévéza, serait sans effet et illusoire, si elle n'entraînait l'exercice d'une certaine autorité sur le Détroit. Tel n'a pas été l'avis de ceux qui furent appelés à déterminer, par le Traité de Constantinople, les conditions dans lesquelles s'effectuerait le passage du Détroit.

L'autorité que Server Pacha réclame aujourd'hui fut expressément réservée dans le Traité de 1832 et, qui plus est, elle ne fut pas comprise alors dans la demande de la Porte.

Lorsque dans la Conférence de Constantinople de 1832 le Reis Effendi formula sa demande que Punta fut laissée, il eut soin d'en préciser le but. Il parla "d'un petit promontoire nommé 'Punta' situé en face de Prévéza, qui est très nécessaire à la Porte, parce qu'il domine le canal, et parce que la possession de ce point est indispensable pour protéger le passage des bâtiments Turcs dans le Golfe. La cession," a-t-il conclu, "de ce promontoire à la Grèce, serait donc très préjudiciable à la Porte."

Telles étaient, en l'année 1832, les prétentions de la Porte: elle n'aspirait nullement au droit d'interdire, de contrôler ou de réglementer le passage des bâtiments Grecs, sa demande ne visait que la défense stratégique de Prévéza et la protection du passage des bâtiments Turcs. Nous ne pouvons donc admettre aujourd'hui, en faveur de la Porte, et à notre détriment, des droits sur le Détroit portant atteinte à ceux que nous possédons comme riverains du golfe. Nos droits furent expressément consacrés par le Traité de 1832, tandis que ceux que la Porte réclame aujourd'hui lui furent refusés par ce Traité et ne furent même pas sollicités par elle lors de son élaboration.

Veuillez en conséquence vous expliquer là-dessus clairement avec Server Pacha, en réitérant à son Excellence la déclaration que la circulaire qui vous fut adressée par la Sublime Porte, en date du 29 Août, ne peut sortir son effet en violation des droits qui nous sont garantis par les Traités.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) H. TRICOUPI.

No. 305.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 30.*)

(No. 1353. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 17, 1877.*

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegraph, on the 9th instant, that three of the five vessels mentioned in your Lordship's telegram of the 8th instant, viz., the "Neasona," "Alexandros," and "Aghios Charalambros," as about to leave Nicholaieff with cargoes of grain for Constantinople, had been seized on their arrival in the Bosphorus.

They were brought before the Prize Court, and I learnt confidentially that considerable sums of money had been promised by their owners to its members, in the event of the release of their ships, which, I was assured, was almost a certainty. I lost no time in informing Server Pasha that I was acquainted with the means that were being taken to corrupt the Court, and that in the event of their being successful, I should consider it my duty to inform Her Majesty's Government of the circumstances, and to advise them that the Turkish blockade of the Russian ports in the Black Sea was no longer effective.

This communication, of which the Prize Court was at once informed, produced no small effect. One of the legal advisers of the Porte was immediately sent to speak to me on the subject.

He represented to me that the vessels had been seized in the Bosphorus after they had escaped the blockade, and that, according to the best authorities on international law, they could not, under these circumstances, be considered good prize. I informed him that England, and, I believed, the United States, had not recognized this doctrine, and whether they had or not there was in this case every reason to suspect that the vessels had been allowed to escape through the connivance of the Turkish authorities, who now, under the pretence of being unable to condemn them as they had already run the blockade, were about to release them. I begged him to remember that the matter was a grave one, and it was for the Porte to consider whether it suited its interests to run the risk of a very serious misunderstanding with England for the sake of putting money into the pockets of MM. Zarifi, Negroponti, and Vagliano.

My warning seems to have had an immediate effect, for the Prize Court, which, with the exception of one member, had resolved to release the three vessels in question, unanimously condemned them; and, moreover, I have reason to believe that ten other ships, four of which, I am informed, are Italian, will also be declared good prize.

M. Zarifi has considerable personal influence with the Sultan, and is surprised and exasperated to find that that influence, and the bribes which he and his relative, M. Negroponti, have literally employed, have not enabled them to obtain the release of their ships; but, if I am not misinformed, means will be found to satisfy him by indemnifying him for his losses in some way or another.

Altogether this affair is a very scandalous one, and is an instance of the means in

which the wily and unprincipled Greeks contrive to live and fatten upon the Turks, by whom, it is the fashion to believe, they are shockingly plundered and oppressed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 306.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 1356.)
Therapia, November 17, 1877.

My Lord,

AS I have already informed your Lordship, Consul Blunt is engaged in preparing a report, founded upon evidence of a trustworthy character, collected on the spot, with regard to the massacres committed in the districts of Roumelia recently invaded by the Russian troops. Mr. Blunt tells me that as he has had to visit many villages, and to examine personally a large number of witnesses, it will be some time before his report is finished. However, he sends me the following remarkable statement:—

"When I left Adrianople I was under the impression that many of the accounts which had been published about the cruelties perpetrated on the Turkish inhabitants in the Tundja valley were exaggerated. I grieve to say that careful inquiries have undeceived me. I have visited forty-eight villages in the district of Kyzanlik, and collected data which confirm these accounts.

"I have the name of every Turkish man, woman, and child, massacred by Bulgarians and Cossacks in these villages; and evidence to prove that the bloody work was carried out on a regular system, with the evident object of exterminating the Mohammedan population on this side of the Balkans. As an instance, I may mention the village of Muflis (Bulgarian, Maglish), where 135 men (Turks), 92 women, and 75 children, in all 302 souls, were massacred. Of these, 135 women and children were carried to the mountains, and hacked to pieces, after having been brutally outraged."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 307.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 1360. Confidential.)
Therapia, November 17, 1877.

My Lord,

IN the course of a conversation with my Austrian colleague on the state of affairs in Southern Albania, I asked him whether he had received any information with regard to the intrigues alleged to be carried on by the Italian Consul at Scutari amongst the Catholics of that province, and to supposed designs of Italy upon it.

Count Zichy replied that he had reason to believe that the reports which had been circulated on this subject were very much exaggerated. The Italian Consul at Scutari was a busy, intriguing person; but his proceedings were closely watched by his Austro-Hungarian colleague, in whose judgment and knowledge of all that was going on in Albania and Montenegro, he, Count Zichy, had the fullest reliance.

It was not probable, his Excellency added, that the Roman Catholic clergy in Albania would be much disposed to act with the Italian Consul, considering the relations which existed between the Vatican and the Italian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 308.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 1365.)
Therapia, November 18, 1877.

My Lord,

IN the printed Confidential Correspondence transmitted to me by your Lordship in your despatch No. 696 of the 8th instant I find a memorandum communicated to your Lordship by M. Gennadius, which, he states, contains "incontrovertable facts demonstrative of the actual state of the provinces next the Hellenic frontier," and to "fall short

of a full and adequate description of the unprovoked martyrdom which continues to be mercilessly inflicted upon the Greek people of Thessaly." I have every reason to believe that this memorandum contains a grossly exaggerated account of the state of those provinces furnished by Greek agents to the Hellenic Government, and knowingly and designedly used by it for political purposes. I would contrast it with the statement made by Captain Clarke, who may be accepted as an impartial and competent observer, and who has recently visited Thessaly and Epirus, partly with the object of reporting on the condition of those provinces. In his Secret and Confidential letter to Mr. Wyndham, dated the 14th instant (inclosed in Mr. Wyndham's despatch to your Lordship, No. 304, of the same date), Captain Clarke writes:—

"The Greek population in Thessaly and Epirus had, on the whole, little complaint to make during the interval I was marching from Janina viâ Larissa to Lamia (within the last three weeks). They reported the Bashi-Bazouks as behaving for the time better, so that, if the Turkish authorities restrain the pillaging propensities of these irregulars, which it is within their power to do, the Greeks will be unable to seize upon the pretext of the Bashi-Bazouk outrages for declaring war against Turkey." He adds that "the pro-Hellenic feeling is much more pronounced in Greece than in those two provinces."

There is no doubt that the Ghegas, or Northern Albanians, whom M. Gennadius terms, without authority, I believe, "a mixture of Albanian, Serb, and Bulgarian renegades, have committed excesses in Thessaly. But why has the Porte been compelled to make use of these lawless irregulars? It is to avert the danger which is threatened by Greek revolutionary intrigues, and a wanton invasion of Turkey, for which Greece is openly preparing. The Turkish Government warned Greece long ago that, if she persisted in the course she was pursuing, it would be compelled to have recourse to the Albanian irregulars to defend the Turkish frontiers. The Hellenic Government is following its customary policy of driving the Porte into taking measures in self-defence, which it can afterwards denounce as proofs of hostile and aggressive designs upon Greece. The object it has in view is too patent to deceive any one acquainted with the relations between the two countries.

The Porte, as I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 1202 of the 12th ultimo, is doing its best to keep these irregular troops in order, and would withdraw them altogether if its provinces were not continually menaced by Greece, and if she would pursue a frank and loyal policy. But whilst Greek Ministers, although giving pacific assurances, do not attempt to conceal their intention of attacking her as soon as a favourable opportunity occurs, they can scarcely be surprised that the Turkish Government should have had recourse to the only measures left to it, in the midst of a gigantic struggle, to defend its territory and protect its subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 309.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 1373.)
Therapia, November 21, 1877.

My Lord,

I BROUGHT a statement that had appeared in some English newspapers to the effect that a number of Bulgarian boys, 10 and 12 years old, had been conveyed in chains as prisoners to Constantinople to the notice of the Grand Vizier and Server Pasha, and represented to them the unfavourable impression that such treatment of children would produce in Europe if the charge made against the Turkish authorities proved to be true. The Grand Vizier at once telegraphed on the subject to the Vali of Adrianople, who has replied that not a single Bulgarian child has been arrested, and that the statement contained in the newspapers, to which I have referred, was absolutely devoid of foundation. I have failed to discover that any Bulgarian boys have been brought to Constantinople in the manner described.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 310.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 1378.)

Therapia, November 21, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls at Salonica and Prevesa on the subject of the irregulars in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 310.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, November 7, 1877.

Sir,

THE post from Volo, delayed three days, having come in, I have received a despatch from Mr. Suter, inclosing an account in Greek of the acts of the Ghegha irregulars at Rhapsaney, which being almost a repetition of what has been already laid before your Excellency I refrain from transcribing.

Mr. Suter says that the Mustechar of the Vali of Yannina, Yacovo Artemiadi Effendi, had come to Larissa and presided at an assembly of all the members of the Medjliss and Beys for the object of ascertaining the prevailing desire whether the irregulars, against whom so many complaints had been made, should be retained or disbanded. The discussion resulted in a vote that they should be retained, but employed in conjunction with regular troops, and a Mazbata was signed to that effect by all, even by the Christian members of the Medjliss, with the exception of Ferik Achmet Pasha, commanding the troops in Thessaly, who peremptorily refused to put his seal to the document. Artemiadi Effendi took the Mazbata with him, and left on the 30th October for Yannina.

The Zeibeck irregulars, after having murdered and mutilated in a shocking manner three persons in the vicinity of Volo, and committing other outrages in their way to Larissa, finally left the town for Yannina on the 28th ultimo.

On the 27th October, a Turkish steamer landed at Volo a battery of six small field-guns, and a large quantity of ammunition, from Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 310.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Prevesa, November 10, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that M. Kypriotis writes under date of the 1st instant that arms have been distributed to the Mussulman population of Janina, and that the Albanian irregulars who had arrived there, as reported to your Excellency in my despatch of the 27th ultimo, had left the day before (31st ultimo) for Salonica, where it is intended to arm them with breech-loading rifles.

In a confidential letter of the same date M. Kypriotis reports that two acts of brigandage had been committed in two villages situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Janina, and it is supposed that one of the above acts of brigandage has been perpetrated by the followers of the brigand Chiefs Stupar and Mariolis, who a short time back had escaped from Janina.

The Albanian irregulars above referred to appear to have conducted themselves on the point of leaving Janina in the most disorderly manner, for on marching through the streets they laid hands on everything within their reach, and, to use M. Kypriotis' expression, all the shops were closed in the "twinkling of an eye."

The above incident appears to have produced a very bad impression on the local authorities at Janina, especially on the chief military authority, who, it seems, succeeded in having the goods thus illegally taken possession of by the irregulars restored to the owners.

I have also the honour to inclose, under flying seal, a despatch addressed to Colonel

Lennox, Military Attaché, acquainting him with the arrival at this port of the steam-ship "Mercin," Captain Lucca Petrovitz, with war material.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 311.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 1379.)

Therapia, November 21, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1271 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Blunt on the subject of the Jewish refugees from Kyzanlik.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 311.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Kyzanlik, October 31, 1877.

Sir,

I RECEIVED on the 28th instant from Mr. Vice Consul Dupuis a Turkish translation of your Excellency's telegram, addressed to me at Adrianople, communicating the Earl of Derby's inquiries on behalf of the Jewish Alliance, relative to the desire of the Jewish exiles at Bucharest to return to Kyzanlik, and I addressed to your Excellency on the following morning a telegram in reply, worded as follows:—

"The Jewish exiles now at Bucharest can, in my opinion, return to Kyzanlik with perfect safety, as regards the internal state of this district. The country on this side of the Balkans has been completely cleared of insurgents, and the exiles may confidently rely on a continuance of the sympathy and active goodwill shown to the remnant of their communities here and at Eski-Zaghra by the Turkish irregulars as well as regulars, who rescued them. Some Jews have already returned from Adrianople and Philippopolis, and opened shops here. None of the houses inhabited by the community at Kyzanlik have been burnt, but nearly all will need some little repair; and although business is gradually reviving, the poorer exiles would at first require some pecuniary help. I shall do all in my power to further the views of the Jewish Alliance."

Since dispatching the above, I have seen and spoken on the subject to his Excellency Raouf Pasha, who has expressed his readiness to afford the exiles every protection and assistance in his power.

Jewish fugitives continue to arrive here from Adrianople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 312.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 1385.)

Therapia, November 21, 1877.

My Lord,

MAJOR DE WINTON having accompanied Colonel Maitland in his recent mission to Orkhanie for the purpose of reporting to me on the military operations for the relief of Plevna, I requested him to obtain some information of the condition of the fugitives who have been driven out of their villages by the Russian invasion, and to make any suggestions that might occur to him for their relief. He has been kind enough to give me a most valuable report on the subject, which I desire to communicate to Baroness Burdett-Coutts, through whose benevolent and humane exertions a considerable fund has now been obtained for the purpose of saving from the greatest misery, and even from death, the innocent victims of this cruel war. I have thought it right, however, to send her Major de Winton's report through your Lordship, and I should feel greatly obliged to your

Lordship if, after reading this really interesting document, you would kindly forward it, should you see no objection to doing so, to Baroness Burdett-Coutts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 312.

Major de Winton to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Therapia, November* 20, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Excellency's information, the following report on the state of the fugitives in the district south of the Balkans. This district may be best understood by drawing a line from Sofia to Adrianople, passing through Ichtiman, Tatar-Bazardjik, and Philippopolis, a distance of about 200 miles.

From want of organization among the Turkish authorities they are unable to furnish correct returns of the numbers of these fugitives, but from what I was able to obtain, from what I saw on the roads between Tatar-Bazardjik and Orkhanie, and from reports which have been forwarded to your Excellency by the Committees who have been formed in some of the places above-named, the following may be taken as tolerably correct:—

At Sofia and villages in Mutesariff	10,500	These numbers were furnished by the Turkish authorities at Sofia.
Kustendjie, in Vilayet of Sofia	3,500	
Vladomir	1,500	
Dutnessi	2,500	
Presnik	800	
Slatica	1,500	
Ichtiman and Samakov	2,800	
On the road between Orchanié and Sofia, about . .	25,000	Personal observation.
.. Tatar-Bazardjik and Sofia, about ..	5,000	
At Tatar-Bazardjik	3,076	Furnished by Consul W. Blunt.
Villages surrounding Tatar-Bazardjik, about	6,000	
Philippopolis, about	4,000	Committee at Philippopolis.
Adrianople	8,000	Committee at Adrianople.
Total	73,176	

In this total the refugees at Kyzanlik, who are receiving assistance through Consul W. Blunt, and those at Shumla and Varna, are not included.

In all the large towns a Turkish Committee has been formed by the authorities; their operations consist in distributing the Government ration of bread, and in placing refugees in empty houses; but as they have neither organization nor system, they are useless for all purposes of practical relief.

I should have mentioned that a certain number of refugees, especially those passed on the road, appeared to have some means of subsistence; but assuming that a portion of them will not require assistance, it is obvious that any attempt to succour the body of refugees, must speedily absorb all available funds before half the winter is over, and the question arises how to spend the money at your Excellency's disposal to the best advantage.

I beg, therefore, to submit the following scheme, which, although it will not meet one tithe of the distress which must prevail in this unhappy country during the winter, will afford relief to the most urgent cases:—

1. That the district be divided into three, having centres at Adrianople, to include Kyzanlik; at Philippopolis, to include Eski-Zagra, Tatar-Bazardjik, Ichtiman, and Samakov, a sub-agent being placed in charge of the three latter places; and at Sofia.

Committees in good working order have been formed at Adrianople and Philippopolis, and have already distributed a large amount of relief; and a Committee is about to be formed at Sofia of two residents of the place, to whom will be joined Mr. Masters, who has been doing excellent work at Kyzanlik, and who will act as your Excellency's representative.

2. That all relief be given on the ticket system, viz., by purchasing food, charcoal, and clothing wholesale, and keeping them at a store, from which issues will be made only by the presentation of tickets signed by one of the Committee, or agents appointed by them. No tickets to be given at the store, but their issue is to be guided by visiting the refugees, and so ascertaining their condition by personal observation.

3. That lists showing number, age, and sex of all refugees be kept in each district. Such lists to be divided into three heads:—

(*a*). Those who have means of subsistence.
(*b*). Those who require only partial occasional assistance; and,
(*c*). Those who are without any means of support.

As these propositions are only intended for general guidance, much must depend on the energy displayed in carrying out the necessary details by the several Committees, as also upon the personal interest and activity manifested by members and sub-agents.

It is calculated that subsistence can be afforded at a daily rate of from 1 to 2 piastres per head, varying in different localities according to the price of food; and to meet current expenses, I would propose a grant of 500*l.* Turkish per month to each of the three districts. Although Sofia has by far the larger number of refugees, provisions are more than half the price paid at Adrianople, and the same sum expended in each district would relieve fugitives in a fair proportion to their relative numbers.

This expenditure, on the calculations made, will give a daily ration to about 5,000 refugees, but it leaves nothing for charcoal, clothing, &c., and, with the funds at present in hand, it could be carried on for about four months.

The state of affairs then may be briefly summed up as follows:—

Probable number of refugees who, having lost all, require permanent relief during the winter, 15,000; of these only 5,000 can be assisted.

Number of refugees requiring partial relief, 35,000. Nothing can be done for these without more funds.

To meet these pressing wants at least 5,000*l.* per month is required, or, say for the next five months, 25,000*l.*; of this 6,000*l.* is already subscribed, being the balance of previous subscriptions after fulfilling present engagements; but I feel sure that if the misery, desolation, and wretchedness of these poor creatures, of whom more than nine-tenths are women and children, and who, driven from their homes, have no other prospect before them during the coming winter, but that of perishing slowly from cold and starvation, was but fully known, the generosity of England would cheerfully respond to a further appeal on their behalf.

From a personal experience I can state to your Excellency that, if not relieved, many must perish, and it may be gratifying to those who have already so generously subscribed, to know that many thousands of lives have been saved by their timely charity.

An organized system of relief can at once be set in motion throughout the country, and it only needs money to save many thousands more.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. DE WINTON,
Major, R.A.

No. 313.

Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 15. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, November* 20, 1877.

I HAVE been informed to-day that there only remains a small fort to be taken before Antivari falls into the hands of the Montenegrins. Indeed, for some time past, all communication has been stopped between that place and Scutari, and the steamers with mails for Scutari have been ordered not to touch at Antivari.

The Prince of Montenegro is said to have established his head-quarters on the coast between Antivari and Spitza, and to have received instructions from Bucharest not to persist in bombarding Podgoritza, but to push on where he can, and to establish himself on as much Turkish territory as possible near the sea, pending an armistice.

I should not have paid much attention to such a report had my informant been any other than General von Poppenheim.

The advance made towards the sea-coast by the Montenegins is looked upon with anything but satisfaction by Austria, and is the result of the latter's connivance in the supply of arms, guns, and ammunition to the former.

These very guns, which she has allowed to cross her territory in order to favour the Montenegrins and the Slav authorities and population in Southern Dalmatia, may some day be turned against her.

Until now Montenegro, owing to the long strip of land which cut her off from the sea, has been entirely dependent on Austria for supplies of every description. It was, therefore, her interest to be on good terms with the latter; but now, having a sea-board of her own, she may, with Russian protection, defy Austria.

Such is the opinion of autonomists. Austria's most loyal subjects in Dalmatia, who all along have condemned the policy adopted by the local Government, and sanctioned by that at Vienna.

In the event of difficulties arising between Austria and Montenegro, the latter could any day make a descent on Cattaro, which is not sufficiently garrisoned, and where the Montenegrins would be received with open arms by the civil authorities, as well as the greater part of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

P.S.—A Turkish telegram has just been received announcing the suspension of the bombardment of Podgoritza by the Montenegrins.

C. ST. J.

No. 314.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 312.) *Athens, November 22, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Turkish Minister at this Court informed me yesterday, with reference to a reported departure of a band of forty Greeks from Agrapha, that he had been informed by the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Government had no knowledge of the matter, but that they would at once cause inquiries to be made, and would fulfil their duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 315.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 313.) *Athens, November 22, 1877*

My Lord,

I RECEIVED yesterday afternoon a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, dated the 20th instant, and which his Excellency had also forwarded to your Lordship, reporting that the Porte had received information that a band of forty Greeks had left Agrapha in the direction of Domoero and Chatalja.

As Photiades Bey had in the morning mentioned to Mr. Stuart a report of a Greek band having crossed the frontier, I called upon him, on the receipt of Mr. Layard's telegram, and asked him if the band therein referred to was the same that he had spoken of to Mr. Stuart. His Excellency replied that it was; that he had received a telegram on the subject direct from the Pasha at Yannina, and that he had at once called upon M. Tricoupi, whom he found at a Cabinet Council, and asked him if he had any information as to the band in question.

M. Tricoupi, he said, immediately communicated with the Minister of the Interior, who stated that he had no cognizance of the matter, but that instructions should be at once sent by telegraph to the proper authorities, to institute inquiries as to the truth of the statement; and that M. Tricoupi had assured him that the Greek Government would fulfil their duty ("ferait leur devoir").

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 316.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

Tiflis, November 29, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

MANY boats ordered to be collected at the mouth of the River Riom. I think attack will be some night made against Batoum by sea as well as by land. Reinforcements coming from the north continually. Altogether 7,000 individuals emigrated from Turkey, namely, 4,200 Christians and 2,800 Devil Worshippers.

END.

No. 317.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 509.) *Therapia, November 29, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

THE Porte has sent a Circular to Foreign Missions declaring the coast in the vilayet of Scutari of Albania, between Spezzia and Dulcigno, in a state of blockade, and that a sufficient number of ships will maintain it.

No. 318.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 510.) *Therapia, November 29, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my previous telegram I have pointed out to the Porte the objections to the declaration of a blockade of their own ports and coasts, but it maintains its Circular. Do you wish me to make any representation on the subject?

No. 319.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

Scutari, November 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FROM my despatch No. 124 of the 22nd instant, your Lordship will see by its last paragraph that I have been prepared for your Lordship's instruction of yesterday, and that, consequently, I have commenced steps in the direction reported in my telegram of 22nd.

No. 320.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 511.) *Therapia, November 30, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Mr. Blunt, dated to-day:—

"Governor of Sophia telegraphs to-day here that according to statement of two Turks, who left Plevna 20th instant, and succeeded in reaching Sophia the 28th, the condition of Osman Pasha's army, as regards health, provisions, and ammunition, is satisfactory.

"Mehemet Ali Pasha telegraphs that Russians attacked, 28th instant, his advanced positions in Orkhanie Pass, but were repulsed, suffering severe loss in killed and wounded.

"Weather continues bad."